

# Annual Report: 2024 in Review

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# INTRODUCTION

The Habeas Corpus Resource Center (HCRC) was created as part of the judicial branch, effective January 1, 1998, by Senate Bill 513.<sup>1</sup> The HCRC's mission is to provide legal representation to people sentenced to death in California in their postconviction proceedings, and to serve as a resource center for attorneys appointed in capital cases.<sup>2</sup> As part of its resource center function, the HCRC collects and maintains statewide data on the administration of the death penalty. This report summarizes relevant data from 2024, and the data in this report are current through December 31, 2024.

When the HCRC opened in 1999, California led the nation with the largest number of people under a sentence of death at over 550.<sup>3</sup> By 2000, that number was 586.<sup>4</sup> Over the years, the State continued to sentence people to death at a rapid pace — one that outpaced its ability to appoint appellate and habeas corpus counsel for those people who it condemned to die. It also continued to lead the nation with the largest death row. The number of people sentenced to death peaked at around 754 in 2015<sup>5</sup> — an increase of 189 people from just 15 years earlier. At the end of 2024, for the first time since the HCRC came into existence, the number of people under a sentence of death declined to 1999-2000 levels: there were 574 people sentenced to death in the state. This decrease — a result of people being resentenced and people dying while incarcerated — occurred in the same year that the State implemented a provision in Proposition 66<sup>6</sup> that permitted the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to “phas[e] out its segregated death row units at San Quentin Rehabilitation Center (SQRC) and the Central California Women’s Facility (CCWF)” and transfer incarcerated people with death sentences to prisons throughout the state.<sup>7</sup> Although there are no indications that the reduction in the size of death row was caused by the integration of death-sentenced people into prisons throughout the state, both of these factors appear to reflect a budding recognition that dehumanizing the hundreds of individuals this State has sentenced to die is contrary to California’s current values.

While the reduction in the size of California’s death row is significant,<sup>8</sup> California continues to have the largest death row in the country by a factor of two.<sup>9</sup> In 2024, the state sentenced three people to death. While this number was smaller

than 2023, it continued to outpace the number of people for whom the state appointed post-conviction counsel that same year.

The state has continued to fund the system in a manner that does not support providing the individuals it has condemned to die with statutorily-guaranteed counsel. Before the passage of Proposition 66, then-Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye explained that California's death penalty system needs "structural change, and we don't have the money to create the kind of change that is needed."<sup>10</sup> Proposition 66 attempted to bring about structural change, but without funding to support it, it has "slowed down post-conviction proceedings."<sup>11</sup> As the California Supreme Court recently explained:

[T]here are . . . substantial delays in appointing counsel under [Proposition 66's statutory scheme] to develop and present a comprehensive collateral attack on [an individual]'s death judgment. This was true eight years ago, when voters passed Proposition 66, the Death Penalty Reform and Savings Act of 2016 [citation], which transferred appointment authority from this court to the superior courts. [Citation.] There is no indication that the situation has improved, and . . . [there are] data indicating that it has worsened.<sup>12</sup>

The "substantial delays" the Court described continue throughout litigation, and even extend to exonerations: in 2024, another person was exonerated from California's death row, bringing the total exonerations of people sentenced to death in California since 1977 to eight. That is, in the 48 years since California re-implemented the death penalty, courts have identified 8 wrongful convictions – an average of 1 wrongful conviction every 6 years. Yet this average is likely an underestimate. A 2014 study showed that *at least* 4.1% of people sentenced to death were likely wrongfully convicted.<sup>13</sup> Studies also show that the vast majority of wrongfully incarcerated exonerees are Black, and that exonerations of Black people take years longer, on average, than those of White people.<sup>14</sup> This year's exoneree, a Black man, had been incarcerated for 41 years at the time of his exoneration.<sup>15</sup>

# CALIFORNIA'S DEATH PENALTY SYSTEM

At the end of 2024, the total number of people the State has sentenced to death since 1977, when the death penalty was reinstated as an available sentence in California, grew to 1,016. Some of those people have had multiple death judgments or were resentenced to death after a reversal and retrial. Accordingly, the total number of death judgments statewide since 1977 is even larger, at 1,093.

## NEW DEATH SENTENCES

In 2024, the State imposed three new death sentences. The number of California death judgments imposed annually from 1990 to 2024 are reflected in Figure 1, below. Since 2017, the year Proposition 66 became effective, the number of annual death judgments has remained at or below 5.

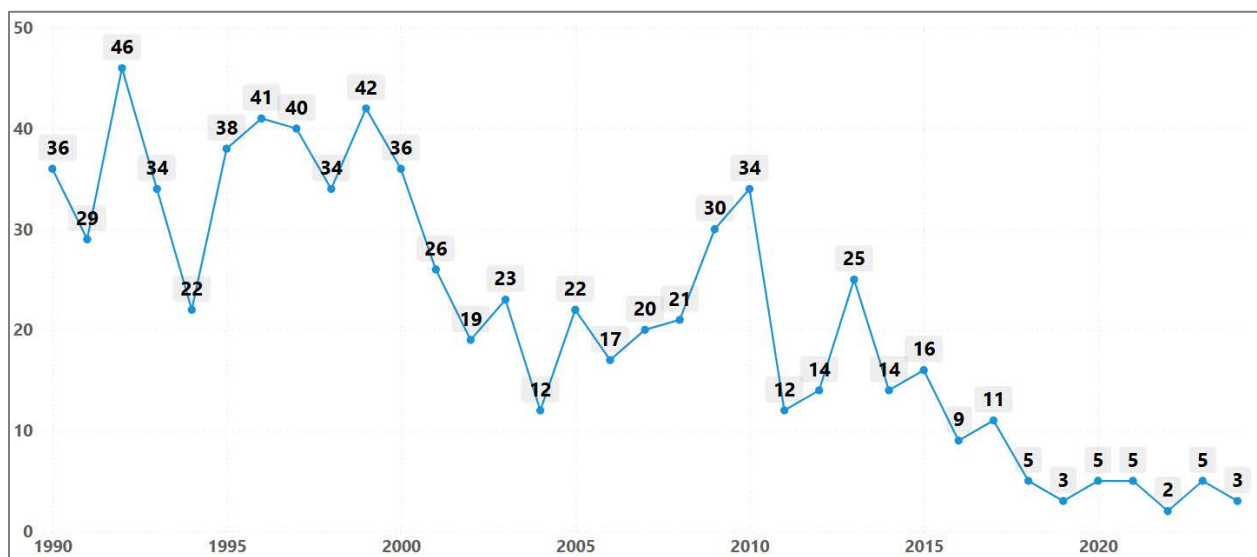


Figure 1. Death Judgments by Year, 1990-2024

Since Governor Newsom declared a moratorium on the death penalty in 2019, the state has sentenced 23 people to death. These death sentences have originated from 8 of California's 58 counties. These are: Riverside, Kern, San Bernardino, Tulare, Los Angeles, San Diego, Merced,<sup>16</sup> and Sacramento. Five of the counties – Kern, Tulare, San Diego, Merced, and Sacramento – have sent only people of color to death row since the moratorium. Riverside County has sent 9 people of color and 1 White person to death row, or 90% people of

color.<sup>17</sup> Of the people San Bernardino County has sentenced to death since the moratorium, 60% are people of color and 40% are White. While Black people make up approximately 9% of the county population,<sup>18</sup> they accounted for 40% of San Bernardino’s death sentences. Los Angeles County has sent two people to death row (one of whom is Black and the other of whom is White) since the moratorium, both in 2021. This was the same year that the Committee on Revision of the Penal Code reported what it described as “concerning” data from 2010-2020 that “[i]n Los Angeles County, 95% of people sentenced to death were people of color” while “Black people made up 9% of the county population during this time but accounted for 43% of the 40 new death sentences.”<sup>19</sup>

Overall, 83% of those the State has sentenced to die since the moratorium are people of color (Figure 2).<sup>20</sup> Of the 23 people, 4 are White; 15 are Latino; and 4 are Black.<sup>21</sup> Of the three people sentenced to death in 2024, two are Latino and one is Black. Thus, what we wrote in our [2023 Annual Report](#) remains true: since January 1, 2022, every person California has sentenced to death is Black or Latino.

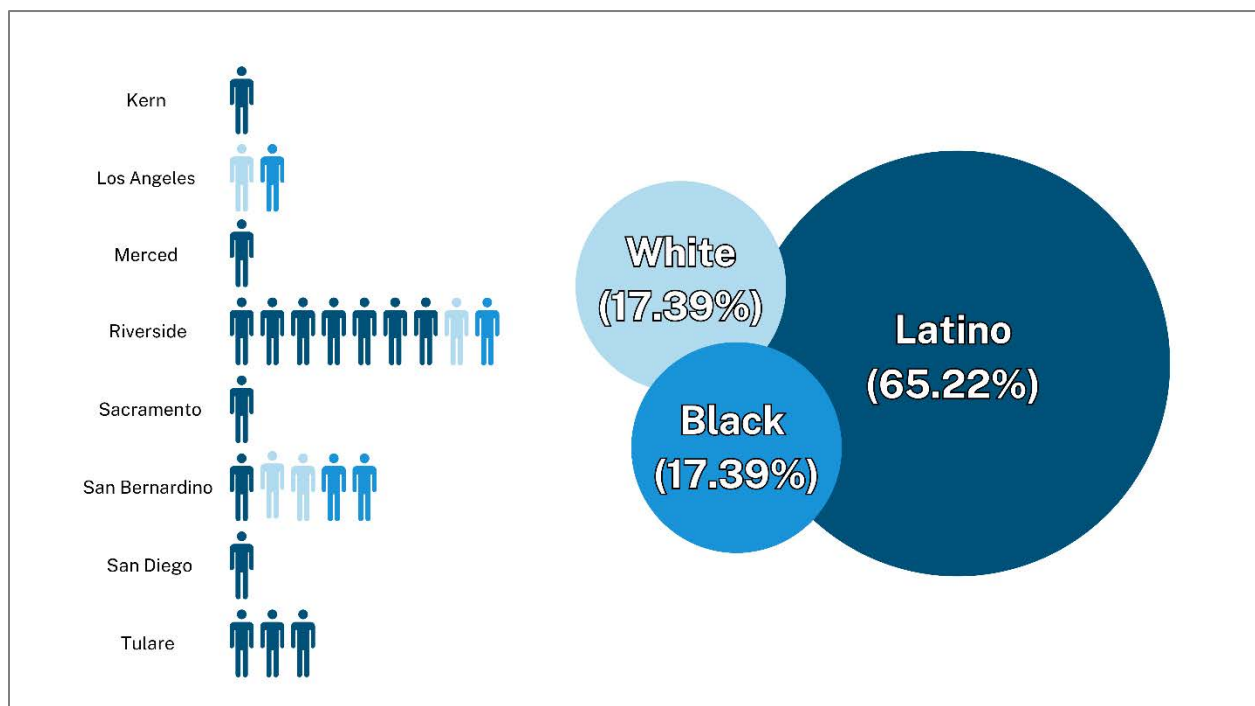


Figure 2. Post-Moratorium Death Judgments by Race, 2019-2024

## PEOPLE CURRENTLY SENTENCED TO DEATH

At the end of 2024, 574 people were under a sentence of death in California. Because some people have more than one death judgment, there were a total of 580 active death judgments at the end of 2024. On January 7, 2025, the CDCR's public website reflected a larger number: 601.<sup>22</sup> The 27-person discrepancy between the HCRC's data and the CDCR's data is accounted for by two factors: (1) CDCR does not re-classify a person whose death sentence has been reversed by a court as anything other than "condemned" until the person has been resentenced after a retrial or plea; and (2) there is typically a lag between the date a person has been resentenced in court and the time CDCR receives and processes that information. The HCRC's own data takes these two factors into account; thus, there were 574 people who had a death judgment in this state at the end of 2024.<sup>23</sup>

Those currently under a death sentence include 42 people<sup>24</sup> who have exhausted one round of state and federal habeas corpus review and thus are vulnerable for execution. These 42 people have spent an average of 36 years under a death sentence.

The average age of California's death row population as a whole is 57, while the average age at time of offense is 28. The oldest person under a death sentence is 94 years old and was sentenced to death in 1984; the youngest is 25 and was sentenced to death in 2024. Although the average age at time of offense is 28, 197 of the 574 people sentenced to death were under 28 at the time of offense. One hundred and sixteen people were under age 26 at the time of the offense. This latter group is of particular note, because, as the Legislature has explained, "research shows that cognitive brain development continues into the early 20s or later. The parts of the brain that are still developing during this process affect judgment and decision-making, and are highly relevant to criminal behavior and culpability."<sup>25</sup>

**116**

25 or younger at  
date of death judgment

California’s death row is comprised largely (about 60%) of individuals who the State sentenced to die in the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s — a time during which the Legislature and the electorate enacted “hyperpunitive policies . . . which led to the era of mass incarceration” and which the Legislature has recently “engaged in a multiyear course correction” to address.<sup>26</sup> The vast

**440**

50 years or older

majority of death-sentenced people are now between the ages of 50 and 69, and a total of 440 of 601 people who CDCR has classified as under a death sentence are age 50 or older.<sup>27</sup>

Studies reflect that incarcerated adults

experience accelerated aging; as such, it is probable that incarcerated people die at an earlier age than non-incarcerated people.<sup>28</sup> Further, studies show that “these individuals are more likely to experience every medical [and mental health] condition compared with their non-incarcerated counterparts, including cognitive diseases.”<sup>29</sup>

## DECREASE IN SIZE OF DEATH ROW

In 2024, the number of people sentenced to death in the state fell to its lowest number in nearly 24 years.

Thirteen people under a death sentence died while incarcerated in 2024.<sup>30</sup> The average age of those who died was 69, while the average life expectancy in the community-based population in California is 10 years older at 79.<sup>31</sup> In 2014, a federal district court judge summarized this phenomenon as follows: “the most common way out of California’s Death Row is not death by state execution, but death by other means.”<sup>32</sup>

This year, and in recent years, however, the most common way out of California’s Death Row has been the result of courts vacating death judgments. In 2024, the state and federal courts vacated 42 death judgments. These vacated judgments were the result of:

- 1 death judgment the California Supreme Court vacated on direct appeal;
- 1 stipulated federal grant of habeas corpus relief based on the prosecutor’s discriminatory jury selection practices;<sup>33</sup>
- 7 state court grants of habeas corpus relief, including 4 resulting in whole or part from a violation of California’s Racial Justice Act (RJA),



- and 2 resulting from the petitioner's permanent incompetence to be executed;
- 1 stipulated grant of relief under the RJA after the state's expert violated the RJA in a habeas corpus evidentiary hearing;
- 1 resentencing resulting from legally-defined limits on accomplice liability for felony murder;<sup>34</sup>
- 1 resentencing based on a stipulation following a return to superior court to address invalid sentencing enhancements; and
- 30 resentencings in 4 different counties resulting from District Attorney-initiated resentencing proceedings.<sup>35</sup>

Forty-one of the 42 people have been resentenced to a sentence less than death; one is pending retrial or resentencing. The 42 vacated death judgments arise out of 9 different California counties: Alameda, Colusa, Contra Costa, Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, Santa Clara, San Diego, and San Mateo. In Santa Clara County, the District Attorney took the position that, "This community does not deserve an archaic, errors-strewn, and racist system of capital punishment," explaining that he sought to reduce death sentences to life without the possibility of parole (LWOP) "because we are not confident that these sentences were attained without racial bias."<sup>36</sup> Similarly, in Contra Costa County, the District Attorney wrote, "We cannot — and should not — ignore the abundant evidence right in front of us. When discrimination and inequity pervade the administration of the death penalty, there is no equality under the law and therefore there can be no justice."<sup>37</sup> Consistent with these statements, in two other counties — Fresno and Los Angeles — the District Attorney conceded that a state actor involved in the case violated the RJA.

## APPELLATE COUNSEL APPOINTMENTS

California courts made the following appellate counsel appointments in 2024:

- 1 new appointment of appellate counsel for an individual who had never had appellate counsel; and
- 4 appointments of replacement appellate counsel for individuals who had been appointed counsel who have since withdrawn from representation.

There are 25 people under a death sentence awaiting appointment of counsel for their direct appeal. The majority of the death judgments in this group were

imposed after the Governor's moratorium six years ago, but one person has waited seven years for appointment of appellate counsel.

In a stark reflection of the lengthy delays inherent in the litigation and adjudication of these cases, and the shortage of counsel at even the appellate level, the group of people awaiting appellate counsel includes both people who have never had an appellate attorney and people who had been appointed appellate counsel who have since retired from the practice of law and are awaiting replacement counsel. The oldest judgment in this group dates back to 2009 (16 years ago). Since the effective date of Proposition 66 (October 25, 2017), there have been 47 new appointments of appellate counsel and 31 appointments of replacement appellate counsel.<sup>38</sup>

## HABEAS CORPUS COUNSEL APPOINTMENTS

California courts made the following habeas corpus appointments in 2024:

- No new appointments of habeas corpus counsel for individuals who have never had habeas corpus counsel; and
- Five appointments of replacement habeas corpus counsel for individuals who had been appointed habeas corpus lawyers who have since withdrawn from representation.

As with appellate appointments, replacement habeas corpus counsel appointments typically occur when currently-appointed counsel withdraws from a case, often because of their retirement from the practice of law. The increase in replacement habeas corpus counsel reflects what the HCRC has anecdotally observed: the habeas corpus counsel bar is aging, and many attorneys who once accepted appointments in private practice have retired from the practice of law entirely or the practice of capital habeas corpus law specifically. Indeed, since the effective date of Proposition 66, courts have appointed new habeas corpus counsel in 1 case and replacement habeas counsel in 14 cases.<sup>39</sup>

There are 345 people (with 347 judgments) awaiting appointment of initial habeas corpus counsel. This number has decreased since last year not because of any new appointments of counsel, but rather because of District Attorney-initiated resentencing proceedings in two counties and because some people died while awaiting habeas corpus counsel.

## DELAYS IN APPOINTMENT OF HABEAS CORPUS COUNSEL

To further its goal of expediting review of capital habeas petitions, Proposition 66 vested the superior courts with the authority to appoint state habeas counsel in capital cases.<sup>40</sup> But since Proposition 66 became effective, only the HCRC has been appointed to represent any of the individuals prioritized as requiring habeas counsel. Other than the HCRC, just three attorneys licensed to practice in California are qualified under the rules of court to represent capital-sentenced people in their habeas corpus proceedings.<sup>41</sup> There is no source of funding to compensate those attorneys for their work, however, and none of them have been appointed in a capital case since the passage of Proposition 66. Indeed, the number of attorneys on the list decreased since 2023 because one attorney withdrew her name from the list. The California Supreme Court has recognized since at least 2010 that there is a “a critical shortage of qualified attorneys” for capital state habeas proceedings,<sup>42</sup> and that the problem persists to this day.<sup>43</sup>

The rules of court direct superior courts to prioritize appointing habeas corpus counsel for the oldest death judgments.<sup>44</sup> The rules instructed the HCRC to identify the 25 oldest death judgments for the courts’ prioritization.<sup>45</sup> The HCRC did so in May 2019, less than a month after rule 4.561 became effective. The 25 oldest death judgments occurred between 1994 and 1997 — all more than 25 years ago. The superior courts have only been able to appoint habeas corpus counsel — HCRC — for one person. Three of the 25 people have died while awaiting appointment of counsel, and one was resentenced to LWOP pursuant to District Attorney-initiated resentencing proceedings. Thus, 20 of the 25 people prioritized for the appointment of habeas corpus counsel in May 2019 are still waiting.

On average, the 345 people sentenced to death in California have been waiting 16 years for appointment of qualified capital habeas corpus counsel for their initial state habeas proceedings. One person has been waiting 30 years for habeas counsel; 203 have been waiting for 15 years or more; and 124 have been waiting for 20 years or more. Of the 345 people awaiting the appointment of habeas counsel, two have two death judgments. Of those 347 judgments, 141 (41%) have been affirmed on direct appeal.

**203**

Waiting 15 or more years for habeas counsel

**124**

Waiting 20 or more years for habeas counsel

**141**

Cases in which a direct appeal opinion has been filed

Delays in appointment of habeas corpus counsel persist throughout the state courts and are not limited to those who have never had a habeas lawyer appointed for them. There are 42 people who are waiting for the appointment of appellate habeas corpus counsel in the Court of Appeal, as Penal Code section 1509.1, which was added by the voters as part of Proposition 66, requires.<sup>46</sup> In the Court of Appeal, a death-sentenced person is entitled to a new attorney to raise claims that their prior state habeas counsel was ineffective for failing to raise in the superior court.<sup>47</sup> Further, there is no source of funding for appellate habeas corpus counsel; as such, the appellate courts have generally stayed section 1509.1 appeals until a competent authority indicates the funds from which appellate habeas corpus counsel can be compensated and the rate at which they should be compensated.

In addition to these 387 people awaiting appointment of counsel and funding for such counsel, there are 2 more people who have returned to state superior court from federal court for exhaustion proceedings, and the superior courts have stayed their cases because the courts are unable to compensate their counsel.

Thus, 389 of the 574 people currently sentenced to death are waiting for the state to appoint them counsel or fund the counsel they already have so their cases can proceed (Figure 3).

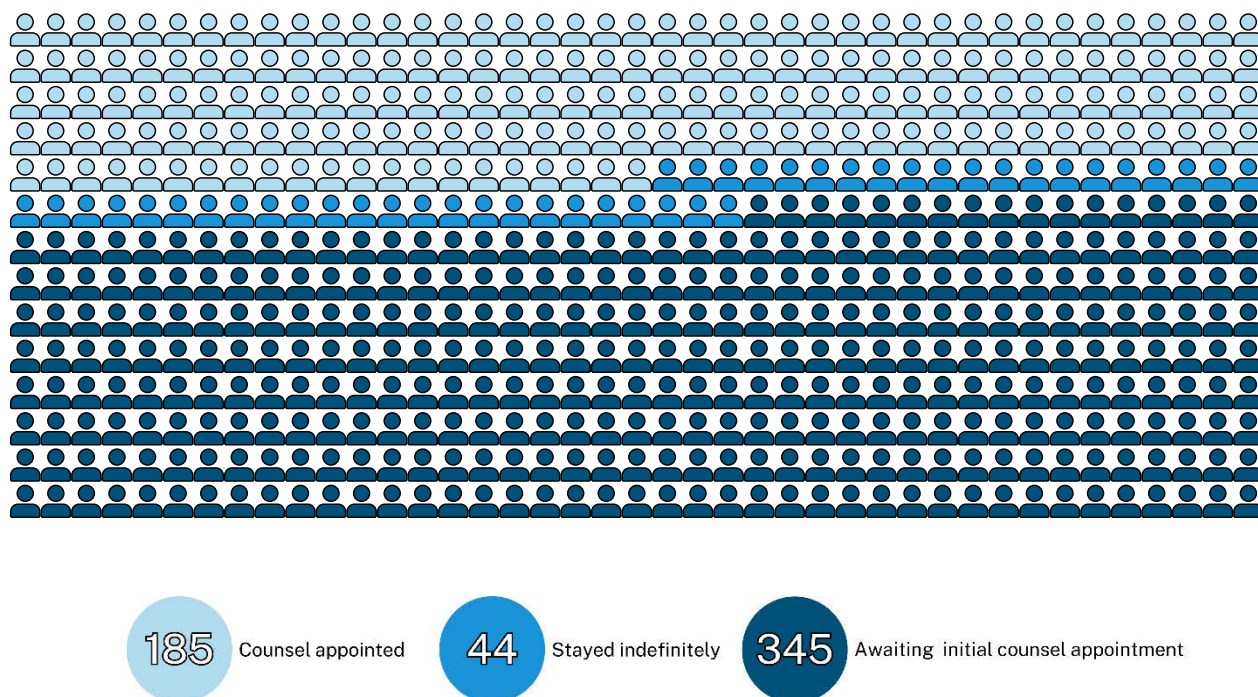


Figure 3. Status of Habeas Counsel Appointments for the 574 People Currently Sentenced to Death in California

As two California Supreme Court justices recently explained: "It is well known, especially to this court, that there is a dearth of qualified counsel and funding for capital appointments."<sup>48</sup>

## MOST COMMON OUTCOMES

The state has executed 13 people since 1977, while 180 people under a death sentence have died of other causes.<sup>49</sup> Thus, based on the available data, a person sentenced to death in California is 14 times more likely to die while incarcerated than to be executed.

Similarly, a person sentenced to death in California is 20 times<sup>50</sup> more likely to obtain relief from their death sentence than to be executed. Two hundred and fifty-eight<sup>51</sup> people have received grants of relief from their death sentence and/or have been resentenced to a lesser sentence by a court since 1977.

It remains the case that a person sentenced to death in California has a 1 in 100 (1.3%) chance of being executed by the state of California.<sup>52</sup> This estimate, however, is significantly higher than the probability that a person against whom the State seeks the death penalty will be executed, as the State seeks the death

penalty against many more individuals than those who are actually sentenced to death. The HCRC does not have access to that data to offer a precise estimate, but anticipates that the figure is much lower than 1.3%.

## FUNDING AND COSTS

The current Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, like her predecessor, has attributed the delays in the appointment of counsel to a lack of funding.<sup>53</sup> This lack of funding does not impact private counsel alone. Rather, the HCRC's budget and the statutory cap on the number of attorneys it can hire means that the HCRC alone cannot solve the systemic dysfunction. In 2004, California's Senate Judiciary Committee created the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice. The Commission studied the state's death penalty and released [a comprehensive report](#) in 2008. The Commission identified several reasons for California's failure to administer a just, fair, and efficient death penalty system. Principal among the causes of the backlog then, as now, was the acute shortage of qualified, competent attorneys willing and able to accept appointments in habeas corpus proceedings. The Commission found that adequately funding an expansion of the HCRC was the best, and likely only, means of meeting the State's need for qualified habeas corpus attorneys. The Commission observed that the HCRC is able to provide training, supervision, and support to its staff attorneys, and leverage the efficiencies of its team-based model to ensure legally sufficient representation as well as eliminate the need for replacement counsel should individual staff attorneys leave the office. Accordingly, the Commission recommended expanding the HCRC from 34 to 150 lawyers and increasing its budget by 500%.<sup>54</sup>

The Commission's recommendations to address the dysfunction of California's death penalty were never adopted.<sup>55</sup> Today, the HCRC is statutorily authorized to employ only 34 attorneys,<sup>56</sup> just four more than it was authorized to employ when it opened its doors in 1999. The HCRC has repeatedly sought, though budget change proposals, to remove the statutory limitation and increase its staffing to better address the backlog of unrepresented condemned persons awaiting appointment of counsel. These requests have been denied. This year, the HCRC absorbed a \$903,000 reduction in its budget as a result of statewide budget cuts. One of the measures the HCRC took to ensure it absorbed this reduction was to impose a hiring freeze. Thus, at present, the HCRC has 19 vacancies, including some attorney vacancies.

At least two jurists have expressed the view that the confluence of the above-described factors yields the result that a "death sentence in California has only a remote possibility of ever being carried out."<sup>57</sup> Yet, since 1978, California has spent at least \$6 billion on its death penalty system; this is a conservative estimate.<sup>58</sup> California Supreme Court Associate Justice Liu has explained: "As leaders of the judiciary have long observed, the death penalty presents serious challenges for the fair and efficient administration of justice. For decades, those challenges have not been meaningfully addressed. As a result, California's death penalty is an expensive and dysfunctional system that does not deliver justice or closure in a timely manner, if at all."<sup>59</sup>

## HCRC'S OPERATIONS

The HCRC was created to address the clear need for qualified attorneys to represent death-sentenced individuals in habeas corpus proceedings. More information [about HCRC](#), and [what we do](#), may be found on our public website: [www.hcrc.ca.gov](http://www.hcrc.ca.gov).

### HCRC CASE ACTIVITY

Since its inception, the HCRC has accepted 102 state appointments and 16 federal appointments. A complete list of the HCRC's current cases is appended to this report.

In 2024, six HCRC clients obtained relief from their death sentences. The majority of those clients have ongoing litigation.<sup>60</sup> In addition, a former HCRC client who was resentenced to life without the possibility of parole after the HCRC represented him in a 2022 evidentiary hearing returned home this year after an appellate court upheld the trial court's order vacating his murder conviction.<sup>61</sup> Although some of the HCRC's clients obtained relief in these cases, the majority of the HCRC's clients remain under a death sentence. As such, the majority of legal staff members' time in the past year has been expended on cases in which litigation is ongoing and evidentiary hearings are pending in superior court.

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

#### EXECUTIVE AND MANAGEMENT STAFF

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The HCRC executive staff is comprised of the Executive Director, two Assistant Directors, and four Deputy Directors. The Executive Director reports to the Supreme Court, and all other employees report – directly or through their supervisors – to either the Deputy Directors, the Assistant Directors, or the Executive Director. The executive staff provides direction for the operational, administrative, and financial functions of the organization. In addition, the Executive Director, Deputy Directors, and one Assistant Director maintain an active case load and supervise case teams. In the past year, the HCRC's executive staff have focused on revamping and improving the office's internal trainings, consulting regularly with case teams on litigation-related issues,



updating the HCRC's policies and procedures, and addressing individual staff professional development needs.

The HCRC executive staff is supported by a management team responsible for the day-to-day management of HCRC operations, including finance and budgeting, human resources, case staffing and supervision, staff development and training, interactions with courts and other offices and entities, information technology, resource development and assistance, and strategic planning. The management team solicits and acts on reports and feedback from HCRC committees, which are composed of staff members from the various work groups and focus on different aspects of the HCRC's operations such as training and hiring, and provides guidance to committee chairpersons and coordinators of office projects and workgroups. The management team includes the executive staff, the Supervising Habeas Corpus Counsel, the Supervising Paralegals, the Mitigation Specialists, the Supervising Administrative Coordinator, and the Information Systems Manager.

## LEGAL STAFF

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Members of the HCRC legal staff — attorneys, paralegals, and investigators — are organized into case teams. Assignments of legal staff members to case teams are made based on criteria including case timeline, complexity, size of record and trial file, and team member experience and workload. The Executive Director, deputy directors, one assistant director, and supervising habeas corpus counsel supervise case teams.

## INFORMATION RESOURCE AND TECHNOLOGY STAFF

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The HCRC's Information Technology staff keep the HCRC's internal software, databases, servers, and other technology up to date. The Information Resources team monitors capital cases throughout the state and serves the dual purpose of assisting staff by providing necessary information to aid litigation and implementing the HCRC's resource center function by developing and updating the HCRC's brief bank and numerous other resources for appointed counsel working on capital appellate or habeas cases.

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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The HCRC's administrative staff serve numerous functions in the office, including human resources, office administration, fiscal services, and reception.

### HCRC'S OFFICE

The HCRC has one office in San Francisco, California. Its cases, however, arise from counties throughout the state, many of them concentrated in Southern California. Historically, the majority of the HCRC's clients resided in San Quentin State Prison (now San Quentin Rehabilitation Center), but in 2024, the CDCR relocated them to prisons throughout the state, many in locations remote from the HCRC's San Francisco office. Many HCRC clients reside in prisons in Southern California. Many HCRC cases also arise out of Southern California and are currently being litigated in superior courts in Southern California. To address the HCRC's need for a more consistent presence in Southern California as a result of these factors, in late 2021, the HCRC initiated a pilot program permitting approved staff living within 100 miles of the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center in Los Angeles, California, to request a full-time regular remote work schedule. Several staff members are participating in the program. The program has been successful, as it has saved the HCRC costs in Southern California-based investigation and enabled the HCRC to file pleadings and obtain records in Southern California more efficiently. The program has also enhanced the HCRC's ability to attract and hire qualified, Southern California-based applicants who may not have applied for a position if they had been required to move to the Bay Area. The HCRC anticipates continuing this program at least until it is able to obtain permanent office space in Southern California.

### RESOURCE CENTER FUNCTIONS

In addition to providing direct representation to its clients, the HCRC develops resources for and provides advice to private counsel appointed to capital cases.<sup>62</sup> The HCRC continues to develop and refine its technological resources to improve efficiency and the quality of its representation, as well as to expand its ability to disseminate material to members of the capital defense community.

The HCRC is required by rule of court to maintain a list of persons subject to a judgment of death.<sup>63</sup> [The list](#) is posted on the HCRC's public website and is

updated every two months; among other information, it provides the total number of people currently under a death sentence in the state. In addition, as described above, and as required by court rule,<sup>64</sup> the HCRC posts a [list of counsel](#) the appellate courts have deemed qualified to accept capital habeas corpus appointments on its public website.

## CONCLUSION

California has the largest death row in the country at 574, with 42 people at risk of execution in the near term if the current governor's moratorium were to be lifted by the next governor. Although the size of California's death row is at its smallest in nearly 24 years, this has occurred primarily because of vacated death judgments or death by causes other than execution. With a very small number of exceptions, nearly all of those whose death sentences were vacated had appellate and/or habeas counsel who helped them obtain that result. Thus, the state's lack of funding for counsel and overall systemic dysfunction has meant that more than two thirds of those still under a death sentence — of whom an unknown but likely significant number have equally meritorious bases for relief in their cases — do not have counsel to bring such claims to light. In actual numbers, 389 of the 574 people sentenced to death are waiting for a state court to appoint them habeas counsel and/or to fund their attorneys to work on their cases. The state system is only able to appoint and fund counsel for about 32% of the people currently sentenced to death, while the remaining 68% must continue to wait for the counsel the State guarantees them.

The systemic dysfunction and potential for injustice that this extraordinary number represents are additionally telegraphed by these alarming data: since the Governor declared a moratorium on the death penalty<sup>65</sup> because it is "unjust, unfair," and "death sentences are unevenly and unfairly applied to people of color," the State has sentenced 23 people to death, 83% of whom are people of color. Every person the State has sentenced to die since 2022 has been Black or Latino. 2024 also marked the eighth exoneration of a person sentenced to death in California, affirming the Governor's statement that this state has sentenced innocent people to death.<sup>66</sup> The exoneration also underscored a disturbing fact: every wrongfully convicted person this state has sentenced to die has been a person of color. These data affirm what scholars studying the imposition of the death penalty have concluded: "it is not so much that the death penalty has a race problem as it is that the race problems of America manifest themselves through implementation of the death penalty."<sup>67</sup>

Though hampered by size and budget limitations, the HCRC remains committed to its mission of continuing to provide competent representation and develop meritorious claims for relief for those sentenced to death in California and continuing to assist appointed counsel in the same endeavor.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Stats 1997, ch. 869.

<sup>2</sup> See *Gov. Code*, §§ 68660-68664.

<sup>3</sup> See Bur. of J. Statistics, *Capital Punishment, 1999* (Dec. 10, 2000), <https://bjs.ojp.gov/press-release/capital-punishment-1999> [indicating that as of December 31, 1999, there were 553 people sentenced to death in California].

<sup>4</sup> Bur. of J. Statistics, *Capital Punishment 2000* (Dec. 11, 2001), [https://bjs.ojp.gov/press-release/capital-punishment-2000#:~:text=At%20year%2Dend%202000%2C%2037,\) %20and%20Pennsylvania%20\(238\)](https://bjs.ojp.gov/press-release/capital-punishment-2000#:~:text=At%20year%2Dend%202000%2C%2037,) %20and%20Pennsylvania%20(238)) [at “year-end 2000,” California had 586 people on death row].

<sup>5</sup> This number is based on a review of CDCR monthly reports. (See also *Jones v. Chappell* (C.D.Cal. 2014) 31 F.Supp.3d 1050, 1053 (*Jones*) [as of the date of the opinion, there were 748 people on California’s death row], *revd. sub nom. Jones v. Davis* (9th Cir. 2015) 806 F.3d 538 [claim was procedurally barred].)

<sup>6</sup> Proposition 66, the Death Penalty Reform and Savings Act of 2016 (Gen. Elec. (Nov. 8, 2016) § 1), available at [https://repository.uclawsf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2358&context=ca\\_ballot\\_props](https://repository.uclawsf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2358&context=ca_ballot_props).

<sup>7</sup> CDCR, *CDCR Provides Update on Condemned Inmate Transfer Program* (Mar. 18, 2024), <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/news/2024/03/18/cdcr-provides-update-on-condemned-inmate-transfer-program/>; see also Pen. Code, § 3600; Cal. Code Regs. tit. 15, § 3375.2.

<sup>8</sup> See, e.g., Egelko, *California Saw the Nation’s Biggest Drop in Death Row Inmates — Without Any Executions*, S.F. Chronicle (Jan. 31, 2025), <https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/california-death-penalty-report-20068690.php>.

<sup>9</sup> Legal Defense Fund, *Death Row U.S.A.: Winter 2025*, <https://www.naacpldf.org/wp-content/uploads/DRUSAWinter2025.pdf>, p. 46 [Florida has 283 people under a death sentence].

<sup>10</sup> Associated Press, *State’s Top Judge Says Death Penalty No Longer Effective*, Press Democrat (Dec. 24, 2011), [https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/states-top-judge-says-death-penalty-no-longer-effective/?utm\\_source=article\\_share&utm\\_medium=copy-link-button](https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/states-top-judge-says-death-penalty-no-longer-effective/?utm_source=article_share&utm_medium=copy-link-button) [also remarking, of the state’s death penalty, “It’s not effective. We know that”].

<sup>11</sup> Com. on Revision of the Pen. Code, *Death Penalty Report* (Nov. 2021), p. 32, [https://www.clrc.ca.gov/CRPC/Pub/Reports/CRPC\\_DPR.pdf](https://www.clrc.ca.gov/CRPC/Pub/Reports/CRPC_DPR.pdf); see also *Briggs v. Brown* (2017) 3 Cal.5th 808, 900 (*Briggs*) (conc. opn. of Cuellar, J) [“As an inducement to support this initiative [Proposition 66], voters were promised that state court review of death penalty judgments could and would be completed within five years. That promise, as the majority concedes, was a sham.”]; *People v. Potts* (2019) 6 Cal.5th 1012, 1066 (*Potts*) (conc. opn. of Liu, J.) [“Proposition 66 promised more than the system can deliver”].

<sup>12</sup> *People v. Wilson* (2024) 16 Cal.5th 874, 957 (*Wilson*).

<sup>13</sup> As discussed below, since 1977, the state has sentenced 1,016 people to death. Based on this study, it is probable that at least 42 of them were wrongfully convicted. The state has only identified less than one-fifth of them.

<sup>14</sup> Nat. Registry of Exonerations, *Race and Wrongful Convictions in the United States 2022* (Sept. 2022), p. 8, <https://www.law.umich.edu/special/exoneration/Documents/Race%20Report%20Preview.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> Death Penalty Info. Ctr., *Innocence Database*, <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/facts-and-research/data/innocence?state=California>.

<sup>16</sup> The case arising out of Merced County was charged by the Merced County District Attorney and tried in Colusa County. The original death sentence was imposed in 2007. In 2023, the case returned to superior court for resentencing proceedings related to sentencing enhancements, at which time the superior court re-imposed the death sentence. The California Supreme Court has treated this as a new death judgment; accordingly, the HCRC lists it as amongst those imposed since the moratorium. If this re-imposed death sentence is excluded from this group, then the death sentences imposed since the moratorium originate from seven counties.

<sup>17</sup> The Committee on Revision of the Penal Code observed in 2021: “Of the 88 people on death row who were sentenced in Riverside County, 76% are people of color.” (Com. on Revision of the Pen. Code, *Death Penalty Report* (Nov. 2021), p. 20, [https://clrc.ca.gov/CRPC/Pub/Reports/CRPC\\_DPR.pdf](https://clrc.ca.gov/CRPC/Pub/Reports/CRPC_DPR.pdf).) Today, there are 85 people on death row who were sentenced in Riverside County, and 78% of them are people of color.

<sup>18</sup> See United States Census, *Quick Facts: San Bernardino County, California*, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/sanbernardinocountycalifornia/AFN120222>; see also Com. on Revision of the Pen. Code, *Death Penalty Report* (Nov. 2021), p. 21, [https://clrc.ca.gov/CRPC/Pub/Reports/CRPC\\_DPR.pdf](https://clrc.ca.gov/CRPC/Pub/Reports/CRPC_DPR.pdf) [noting same].

<sup>19</sup> Com. on Revision of the Pen. Code, *Death Penalty Report* (Nov. 2021), p. 20, [https://clrc.ca.gov/CRPC/Pub/Reports/CRPC\\_DPR.pdf](https://clrc.ca.gov/CRPC/Pub/Reports/CRPC_DPR.pdf).

<sup>20</sup> If the re-imposed death sentence originating from Merced County is excluded from this group, then the percentage becomes 82%.

<sup>21</sup> If the re-imposed death sentence originating from Merced County is excluded from this group, then the number of people the State has sentenced to death since the moratorium becomes 22, and of those 22 people, 4 are White; 14 are Latino; and 4 are Black.

<sup>22</sup> CDCR, *Condemned Inmate List*, <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/capital-punishment/condemned-inmate-list-secure-request/> (last updated Jan. 7, 2025).

<sup>23</sup> The HCRC is required by rule of court to maintain a list of persons subject to a judgment of death. (Cal. Rules of Court, [rule 4.561\(c\)](#).) The list is posted on the HCRC’s public website and is updated every two months; among other information, it provides the total number of people currently under a death sentence in the state.

<sup>24</sup> One of these people has two death judgments, so there are 43 total judgments in this category.

<sup>25</sup> Sen. Rules Com., Off. of Sen. Floor Analyses, Analysis of Assem. Bill No. 1308 (2017–2018 Reg. Sess.) Sept. 4, 2017, pp. 4-5.

<sup>26</sup> *Stats. 2023, ch. 560, § 1* [enacting Assem. Bill 1104]; cf. *People v. Hardin* (2024) 15 Cal.5th 834, 905, fn. 8 (dis. opn. of Evans, J.) [“During the era of the superpredator myth, LWOP sentences swelled in the United States – increasing by over 400 percent between 1992 and 2016,” and noting the majority of juvenile LWOP sentences were imposed in the mid-1990s].

<sup>27</sup> CDCR, *Condemned Inmate Summary: Age Range*, <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/capital-punishment/condemned-inmate-summary-report/> (last updated Jan. 7, 2025).

<sup>28</sup> See, e.g., *People v. J.I.A.* (Jan. 30, 2013, G040625) 2013 WL 342653, \*5 [nonpub. opn.] [“Life expectancy within prisons and jails is considerably shortened”]; see also *Brown v. Plata* (2011) 563 U.S. 493 [noting district court finding that it is an undisputed fact that in 2011, on average, an

incarcerated person in California “needlessly dies every six to seven days due to constitutional deficiencies in the [California prisons’] medical delivery system”; *Jones, supra*, 31 F.Supp.3d at pp. 1055-56 [noting that, as of July 2014, 94 people had died from non-execution causes while under a sentence of death in California and concluding, “As California’s Death Row population gets older, that number is sure to rise”].

<sup>29</sup> Kaiksow, Brown, & Merss, *Caring for the Rapidly Aging Incarcerated Population: The Role of Policy* (2023) 49 J. of Gerontological Nursing 7 [summarizing studies regarding the overrepresentation of cognitive and physical impairments in incarcerated older adults].

<sup>30</sup> CDCR, *Condemned Inmates Who Have Died Since 1978*, <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/capital-punishment/condemned-inmates-who-have-died-since-1978/>. The site contains a typographical error regarding the year of Richard D. Turner’s death; he died in 2024.

<sup>31</sup> Nat. Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Reports, U.S. State Life Tables, 2020*, vol. 71, number 2 (Aug. 23, 2022), p. 3, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr71/nvsr71-02.pdf>. The life expectancy for males in California is 76.2 years.

<sup>32</sup> *Jones, supra*, 31 F.Supp.3d at p. 1054.

<sup>33</sup> There was a second federal district court grant of habeas corpus relief in 2024, but the result of that proceeding is not yet final.

<sup>34</sup> See Pen. Code, § 1172.6.

<sup>35</sup> See Pen. Code, § 1172.1.

<sup>36</sup> Quotes from pleadings on file with the Santa Clara County Superior Court.

<sup>37</sup> Becton, *California Could Finally Abolish Our Racist, Costly, Ineffective Death Penalty System: Opinion*, Sacramento Bee (July 30, 2024), <https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/article290544219.html>.

<sup>38</sup> The number of appointments of replacement appellate counsel does not include appointments of interim counsel, which the Court sometimes appoints before it is able to locate replacement counsel for a particular case. There have been an additional 17 appointments of interim appellate counsel since October 25, 2017.

<sup>39</sup> Similar to the section above, the number of appointments of replacement habeas counsel does not include appointments of interim counsel, which the Court sometimes appoints before it is able to locate replacement counsel for a particular case. There have been 9 additional appointments of interim appellate counsel since October 25, 2017.

<sup>40</sup> [Gov. Code, § 68662](#).

<sup>41</sup> See Habeas Corpus Resource Center, 4.652 Compliance, <https://www.hcrc.ca.gov/4.562.html>; see also Cal. Rules of Court, [rule 4.562](#).

<sup>42</sup> *In re Morgan* (2010) 50 Cal.4th 932, 934.

<sup>43</sup> *Wilson, supra*, 16 Cal.5th at pp. 951, 957.

<sup>44</sup> Cal. Rules of Court, [rule 4.561\(b\)](#).

<sup>45</sup> Cal. Rules of Court, [rule 4.561\(c\)](#).

<sup>46</sup> This number was 43 in the HCRC’s [2023 Annual Report](#), but it has not decreased not because one of the courts has appointed counsel. Rather, this number has decreased (by one) because of District Attorney-initiated resentencing proceedings that involved settlement agreements that required dismissal of all pending court actions, including stayed appellate habeas corpus proceedings.



<sup>47</sup> Pen. Code, § 1509.1, subd. (b).

<sup>48</sup> *Wilson, supra*, 16 Cal.5th at p. 969 (dis. opn. of Evans, J., joined by Liu, J.).

<sup>49</sup> CDCR, *Condemned Inmates Who Have Died Since 1978*, <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/capital-punishment/condemned-inmates-who-have-died-since-1978/>.

<sup>50</sup> This multiple is an undercount because the State sometimes retries individuals after an appellate or habeas court reverses their death judgment and obtains a new death judgment. This paragraph focuses on people, rather than judgments. More than 258 judgments have been reversed. (See generally HCRC, 2023 Annual Report, p. 12, <https://www.hcrc.ca.gov/documents/HCRC%20Annual%20Report%202023.pdf> [noting 277 reversals of death judgments as of December 1, 2023, and concluding: “Ultimately, each California death judgment has a one-in-five chance of being upheld in every court that reviews it, and a four-in-five chance of reversal”].)

<sup>51</sup> Two of the 258 people had two death judgments and received relief on one of the two judgments.

<sup>52</sup> This figure is calculated by dividing the total number of people the state has executed by the total number it has sentenced: 13/1016. The HCRC has included this figure in its past annual reports. (See also *Jones, supra*, 31 F.Supp.3d at p. 1063 [describing California’s system as one in which “so many are sentenced to death but only a random few are executed”].)

<sup>53</sup> Bernstein, *California Courts Are Underfunded, Leading to Delays in Cases, Chief Justice Says*, Sacramento Bee (Jan. 17, 2025), <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article298667898.html>.

<sup>54</sup> Cal. Com. on the Fair Admin. of Justice, Final Rep. (2008), p. 135 (Com. Rep.), available at <https://digitalcommons.law.scu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=ncippubs>.

<sup>55</sup> *Briggs, supra*, 3 Cal.5th at p. 865 (conc. opn. of Liu, J.).

<sup>56</sup> See Gov. Code, § 68661, subd. (a).

<sup>57</sup> *Potts, supra*, 6 Cal.5th at p. 1062 (conc. opn. of Liu, J.); accord *Jones, supra*, 31 F.Supp.3d 1050, 1053 [“for most, systemic delay has made their execution so unlikely that the death sentence carefully and deliberately imposed by the jury has been quietly transformed into one no rational jury or legislature could ever impose: *life in prison, with the remote possibility of death*. As for the random few for whom execution does become a reality, they will have languished for so long on Death Row that their execution will serve no retributive or deterrent purpose and will be arbitrary”].

<sup>58</sup> Com. on Revision of the Pen. Code, *Death Penalty Report* (Nov. 2021), p. 31, fn. 225, [https://clrc.ca.gov/CRPC/Pub/Reports/CRPC\\_DPR.pdf](https://clrc.ca.gov/CRPC/Pub/Reports/CRPC_DPR.pdf) [“Committee staff confirmed that Professor Mitchell has updated this estimate [her 2011 estimate detailed in a law review article that the death penalty cost the state \$5 billion since 1978], which she cautions is ‘conservative,’ to \$6 billion”]; see also Habeas Corpus Resource Center, 2023 Annual Report, p. 15, <https://www.hcrc.ca.gov/documents/HCRC%20Annual%20Report%202023.pdf#page=15>.

<sup>59</sup> *Potts, supra*, 6 Cal.5th at p. 1063 (conc. opn. of Liu, J.)

<sup>60</sup> See Gov. Code, § 68661.5 [explicitly authorizing the HCRC to continue state habeas litigation after clients have been resentenced to life without the possibility of parole, thereby codifying the ethical duty not to abandon a client mid-litigation].



<sup>61</sup> Keker, Van Nest, & Peters, Press Release, *Keker, Van Nest & Peters Secures Release of Client Demetrius Howard After 30 Years in Prison* (Dec. 23, 2024), <https://www.keker.com/news/news-items/keker-van-nest-peters-secures-release-of-client-demetrius-howard-after-30-years-in-prison>.

<sup>62</sup> See *Gov. Code*, § 68661.

<sup>63</sup> Cal. Rules of Court, rule 4.561(c).

<sup>64</sup> Cal Rules of Court, rule 4.562.

<sup>65</sup> Governor's Exec. Order N-09-19 (Mar. 13, 2019), <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/3.13.19-EO-N-09-19.pdf>.

<sup>66</sup> *Id.*

<sup>67</sup> Phillips & Marceau, *Whom the State Kills* (2020) 55 Harv. C.R.-C.L. L. Rev. 585, 589.

**Appendix: List of cases in which HCRC is providing representation  
(current as of at least January 1, 2025)**

Client Name	Case No.	Pending in current court more than 1 year	Reason case has been pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)	Actions being taken to bring case to completion if pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)
Beck, James	110467 (Alameda County Super. Ct.)	Yes	The petition is awaiting action by the superior court.	HCRC completed informal briefing in the California Supreme Court in 2014; the petition is now awaiting action by the superior court.
Bell, Steven	S038499 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		
Bloom, Robert	A801380 (Los Angeles County Super. Ct.)	Yes	Formal briefing is in progress.	HCRC is preparing to file the Denial to Respondent's Return.
Bryant, Stanley	B308280 (2d Dist. Ct. App.)	Yes	The Court of Appeal stayed the proceedings due to Proposition 66's lack of funding for counsel.	None; HCRC is not aware of any source of compensation for counsel.

\*Denotes a case in which HCRC was appointed as counsel for state habeas corpus and executive clemency proceedings, and the state court proceedings litigated by HCRC have concluded.

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Client Name	Case No.	Pending in current court more than 1 year	Reason case has been pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)	Actions being taken to bring case to completion if pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)
Bryant, Stanley	B310052 (2d Dist. Ct. App.)	Yes	The petition is awaiting action by the court.	None; HCRC is awaiting action by the court.
Cásares, Jose	VHC372146 (Tulare County Super. Ct.)	Yes	An evidentiary hearing is ongoing.	HCRC has completed the presentation of its case-in-chief and is preparing for the remainder of the evidentiary hearing.
Coffman, Cynthia	S011960 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		
Contreras, George	S199915 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		

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Client Name	Case No.	Pending in current court more than 1 year	Reason case has been pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)	Actions being taken to bring case to completion if pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)
Cox, Tiequon	A758447 (Los Angeles County Super. Ct.)	Yes	Briefing is in progress.	HCRC is awaiting the filing of Respondent's brief.
Cox, Tiequon	S004711 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		
Cunningham, John	E078684 (4th Dist. Ct. App.)	Yes	The Court of Appeal stayed the proceedings due to Proposition 66's lack of funding for counsel.	None; HCRC is not aware of any source of compensation for counsel.
Curl, Robert	20CRWR685668 (Fresno County Super. Ct.)	Yes	Formal briefing is complete; the matter is now awaiting action by the court.	The parties completed formal briefing and are awaiting action by the court; the court has extended its time to rule to August 1, 2025.

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Client Name	Case No.	Pending in current court more than 1 year	Reason case has been pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)	Actions being taken to bring case to completion if pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)
Curl, Robert	22CRWR686800 (Fresno County Super. Ct.)	Yes	The petition is awaiting action from the court.	HCRC completed informal briefing in late 2024 and is awaiting action from the court.
Danks, Joseph	11-cv-00223 (E.D. Cal.)	Yes	Briefing is in progress.	HCRC filed relevant briefing in 2024; the court ordered additional briefing on the applicability of 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d) immediately following that, which HCRC is preparing to file.
Danks, Joseph	S032146 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		
DeHoyos, Richard	S034800 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		

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Client Name	Case No.	Pending in current court more than 1 year	Reason case has been pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)	Actions being taken to bring case to completion if pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)
Delgado, Anthony	99CM7335 (Kings County Super. Ct.)	Yes	Formal briefing is ongoing.	HCRC is awaiting the filing of Respondent's return.
Dement, Ronnie	F080595 (5th Dist. Ct. App.)	Yes	The Court of Appeal stayed the proceedings due to Proposition 66's lack of funding for counsel.	None; HCRC is not aware of any source of compensation for counsel.
Dement, Ronnie	F080674 (5th Dist. Ct. App.)	Yes	The Court of Appeal stayed the petition "at least until such time" as the issues in Case No. F080595 can be "identified and delineated."	None; see above.
Duong, Anh	S284703 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)	No		

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Client Name	Case No.	Pending in current court more than 1 year	Reason case has been pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)	Actions being taken to bring case to completion if pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)
Edwards, Robert	HC66-00001 (Orange County Super. Ct.)	Yes	The petition is fully briefed and awaiting action by the court.	HCRC completed informal briefing in the California Supreme Court in 2015; the petition is awaiting action by the superior court.
Ervine, Dennis	S054372 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		
Fudge, Keith	S004790 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		
Fudge, Keith	95-cv-05369 (C.D. Cal.)	Yes	HCRC completed the evidentiary hearing and is awaiting a decision from the court.	HCRC conducted the evidentiary hearing in 2022, and is now awaiting a decision from the court.

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(current as at least January 1, 2025)**

Client Name	Case No.	Pending in current court more than 1 year	Reason case has been pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)	Actions being taken to bring case to completion if pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)
Gamache, Richard	CHCJS1900007 (San Bernardino County Super. Ct.)	Yes	An evidentiary hearing is scheduled in the coming months.	HCRC is preparing for an evidentiary hearing, which is scheduled for March 2025.
Garcia, Randy	B305406 (2d Dist. Ct. App.)	Yes	The Court of Appeal stayed the proceedings due to Proposition 66's lack of funding for counsel.	None; HCRC is not aware of any source of compensation for counsel.
Garcia, Randy	B305764 (2d Dist. Ct. App.)	Yes	The Court of Appeal stayed the petition "at least until such time" as the issues in Case No. B305406 can be "identified and delineated."	None; see above.
Ghobrial, John	HC66-00003 (Orange County Super. Ct.)	Yes	The petition is fully briefed and awaiting action by the court.	HCRC completed informal briefing in the California Supreme Court in 2016 and provided the superior court with supplemental briefing in 2022; the petition is awaiting action by the superior court.



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Client Name	Case No.	Pending in current court more than 1 year	Reason case has been pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)	Actions being taken to bring case to completion if pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)
Hoyt, Ryan	S284610 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)	No		
Johnson, Joe	20HC00308 (Sacramento County Super. Ct.)	Yes	An evidentiary hearing is pending, but the hearing in Case No. 20HC00309 will proceed first.	HCRC is preparing for the evidentiary hearing in Case No. 20HC00309.
Johnson, Joe	20HC00309 (Sacramento County Super. Ct.)	Yes	An evidentiary hearing is scheduled this year.	HCRC is preparing for the evidentiary hearing.
Johnson, Michael	CR39376 (Ventura County Super. Ct.)	Yes	Formal briefing is complete; the matter is now awaiting action by the court.	HCRC filed the denial to Respondent's return in 2024 and is now awaiting action from the court.

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(current as at least January 1, 2025)**

Client Name	Case No.	Pending in current court more than 1 year	Reason case has been pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)	Actions being taken to bring case to completion if pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)
Jones, Albert	RIC200912 (Riverside County Super. Ct.)	Yes	Formal briefing is in progress.	Respondent's return was filed in January 2025, and HCRC is now preparing to file the denial.
Jones, Bryan	S217284 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)	Yes	Informal briefing is in progress.	HCRC is drafting the reply to the informal response, which is anticipated to be filed in August 2025.
Jones, Bryan	4:22-cv-01086-JSW (N.D. Cal.)	Yes	DOJ has produced the documents it is willing to produce without a court order; they are seeking a ruling from the court that they are not required to produce the remaining responsive documents.	The DOJ is preparing a motion for summary judgment, due in April 2025.
Jones, Ernest	S046117 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		

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Client Name	Case No.	Pending in current court more than 1 year	Reason case has been pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)	Actions being taken to bring case to completion if pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)
Jones, Ernest	2:09-cv-02158-CJC (C.D. Cal.)	Yes	The case is currently stayed pending outcome of state proceedings.	None; the case is stayed.
Jones, Ernest	BA063825 (Los Angeles County Super. Ct.)	Yes	Formal briefing has been completed, and a stipulation filed, but there is ongoing litigation.	HCRC is litigating various issues in the case and filed a potentially dispositive motion in late 2024.
Lee, Philian	RIC1821311 (Riverside County Super. Ct.)	Yes	An evidentiary hearing is pending.	HCRC is preparing for the evidentiary hearing and litigating issues attendant to the hearing.
Leonard, Eric	S054291 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		

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Client Name	Case No.	Pending in current court more than 1 year	Reason case has been pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)	Actions being taken to bring case to completion if pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)
Letner, Richard	S015384 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		
Lewis, John	S031603 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		
Lewis, John	11-cv-06395 (C.D. Cal.)	Yes	The parties are awaiting a decision by the district court on the applicability of 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d).	HCRC completed briefing on the applicability of 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d) in 2016 and is now awaiting action by the Court.
Lopez, Michael	H28492A (Alameda County Super. Ct.)	Yes	Numerous claims were recently resolved, but two claims await action by the court.	The parties reached an agreement in 2024 that resolved the majority of the pending claims in the habeas corpus petition; the remaining issues await action from the court.

**Appendix: List of cases in which HCRC is providing representation  
(current as at least January 1, 2025)**

Client Name	Case No.	Pending in current court more than 1 year	Reason case has been pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)	Actions being taken to bring case to completion if pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)
Marks, Delaney	S040575 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		
Marks, Delaney	5:11-cv-02458 (N.D. Cal.)	No		
Marks, Delaney	109184 (Alameda County No Super. Ct.)			
Martinez, Michael	H15696 (Alameda County Yes Super. Ct.)		The petition and a motion are fully briefed and awaiting action by the court.	HCRC completed informal briefing in the California Supreme Court in 2015; the petition is now awaiting action by the court. The parties also have a fully-briefed motion pending in court.

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Client Name	Case No.	Pending in current court more than 1 year	Reason case has been pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)	Actions being taken to bring case to completion if pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)
Maury, Robert	S012852 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		
McPeters, Ronald	318048 (Fresno County Super. Ct.)	Yes	The petition is fully briefed and awaiting action by the court.	HCRC completed informal briefing in the California Supreme Court in 2016; the petition is now awaiting action by the superior court.
McPeters, Ronald	95-cv-05108 (E.D. Cal.)	Yes	The district court vacated all litigation deadlines pending state court exhaustion proceedings.	HCRC filed an exhaustion petition in state court in 2015 (listed above).
McPeters, Ronald	S004712 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		

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Client Name	Case No.	Pending in current court more than 1 year	Reason case has been pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)	Actions being taken to bring case to completion if pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)
Merriman, Justin	CR45651 (Ventura County Super. Ct.)	Yes	HCRC completed an evidentiary hearing in December 2024 and filed post-hearing briefing in January 2024.	HCRC filed its post-hearing briefing, and is now awaiting a decision from the Court.
Merriman, Justin	S097363 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		
Monterroso, Cristhian	S034473 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		
Montes, Joseph Manuel	CVRI2204950 (Riverside County Super. Ct.)	Yes	Investigation and litigation is ongoing.	HCRC continues to investigate the case.

**Appendix: List of cases in which HCRC is providing representation  
(current as at least January 1, 2025)**

Client Name	Case No.	Pending in current court more than 1 year	Reason case has been pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)	Actions being taken to bring case to completion if pending in current court for more than 1 year (if applicable)
O'Malley, James	S024046 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		
Parker, Gerald	HC66-00004 (Orange County Super. Ct.)	Yes	The petition is fully briefed and awaiting action by the court.	HCRC completed informal briefing in the California Supreme Court in 2015; the petition is now is awaiting action by the superior court.
Pearson, Michael	S058157 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		
Rountree, Charles	F087319 (5th Dist. Ct. App.)	No		



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Sánchez, Juan	VHC390792 (Tulare County Super. Ct.)	Yes	Informal briefing is in progress.	Respondent recently filed an amended informal response, and HCRC is preparing the reply.
Sanchez-Fuentes, Edgardo	B302679 (2d Dist. Ct. App.)	Yes	The Court of Appeal stayed the proceedings due to Proposition 66's lack of funding for counsel.	None; HCRC is not aware of any source of compensation for counsel.
Sanchez-Fuentes, Edgardo	B302632 (2d Dist. Ct. App.)	Yes	The Court of Appeal stayed the proceedings "at least until such time as the issues raised in" Case No. B302679 "will be identified and delineated."	None; see above.
Sims, Mitchell	S004783 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		

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Streeter, Howard	E082224 (4th Dist. Ct. App.)	Yes	The Court of Appeal stayed the proceedings due to Proposition 66's lack of funding for counsel.	None; HCRC is not aware of any source of compensation for counsel.
Tafoya, Ignacio	93WFO692 (Orange County Super. Ct.)	Yes	An evidentiary hearing is pending.	HCRC is preparing for the evidentiary hearing.
Tate, Gregory	N/A (matter recently resolved in superior court, will proceed to higher courts)	No		
Taylor, Robert	S025121 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		

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Taylor, Robert	07-cv-06602 (C.D. Cal.)	Yes	HCRC is awaiting action by the court.	HCRC completed briefing on the applicability of 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d) in 2016, and on procedural defaults in 2022, and is now awaiting action by the Court.
Thomas, Regis	BA075063 (Los Angeles County Super. Ct.)	Yes	Formal briefing is ongoing.	HCRC is awaiting the filing of Respondent's Return.
Thornton, Mark	S046816 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		
Trujeque, James	S065877 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)	Yes	Appellate briefing in the case is ongoing.	The parties reached a resolution that resolved some issues in the case; HCRC is preparing a petition to be timely filed that will address the remaining issues.

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Valencia, Alfredo	S167195 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		
Wall, Randall	D078005 (4th Dist. Ct. App.)	Yes	The Court of Appeal stayed the proceedings due to Proposition 66's lack of funding for counsel.	None; HCRC is not aware of any source of compensation for counsel.
Wall, Randall	D078387 (4th Dist. Ct. App.)	Yes	The Court of Appeal stayed the proceedings due to Proposition 66's lack of funding for counsel.	None; HCRC is not aware of any source of compensation for counsel.
Weaver, Ward Jr.	S004665 (Cal. Sup. Ct.)*	No*		

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Williams, George Brett	TA006961 (Los Angeles County Super. Ct.)	Yes	Discovery following formal briefing was ongoing at the time prior habeas corpus counsel withdrew.	HCRC attempted to resolve some discovery issues informally and ultimately filed a motion to compel, to which the DA's response is due.
Wilson, Andre	B299089 (2d Dist. Ct. App.)	Yes	The Court of Appeal stayed the proceedings due to Proposition 66's lack of funding for counsel.	None; HCRC is not aware of any source of compensation for counsel.
Wilson, Andre	B299069 (2d Dist. Ct. App.)	Yes	The petition is awaiting action by the court.	None; HCRC is awaiting action by the court.
Wilson, Byron	BA164899 (Los Angeles County Super. Ct.)	Yes	The petition is awaiting action by the court.	Some issues in the case have been resolved and others are awaiting action from the court.