



## The Death Penalty in North Texas

- New death sentences in Texas have **decreased precipitously** since peaking in 1999, when juries sentenced 48 people to death. Since 2015, prosecutors have sought the death penalty in 24 cases, resulting in 14 new death sentences (58%). **To date in 2018, Texas jurors have sentenced four individuals to death and rejected the death penalty in two other cases.**
- Although Dallas and Tarrant Counties are among Texas' top sentencing counties, Dallas County jurors have not imposed a new death sentence since 2013.
- In 2017, prosecutors in Dallas County pursued the death penalty in two capital murder trials; both ended with sentences of life in prison without parole. A Tarrant County jury rejected the death penalty in a 2017 trial.
- Of the 10 men sentenced to death in Dallas or Tarrant County since 2011, **9 are African American.**
- Since 1973, **163 individuals** – including 13 people in Texas – have been released from death rows nationwide due to evidence of their wrongful conviction. This includes **Randall Dale Adams**, who spent more than a decade in prison after he was wrongfully convicted of killing a Dallas Police officer, and **Michael Toney**, who was wrongfully convicted in Tarrant County and released in 2009.
- More than **50 individuals in Dallas County** have been exonerated of other serious crimes since 2001; many of those exonerations were based on DNA evidence.
- Collectively, **40 people** sentenced to death in Dallas or Tarrant County have been removed from death row; in most cases, their sentences were commuted.
- The State of Texas has executed **555 people** since 1982. This includes **58 people** who were convicted and sentenced to death in Dallas County and **41 people** who were convicted in Tarrant County.
- To date in 2018, Texas has **put 10 people to death**, out of 18 executions nationwide. Two of these individuals were convicted in Dallas County and one was convicted in Tarrant County. Three men convicted in North Texas have execution dates in the remaining months of 2018.
- Currently, there are **224 people on death row** in Texas, including 6 women. Of these, **25 were convicted in Dallas County** and **16 were convicted in Tarrant County.**

For more information, please contact TCADP North Texas Outreach Coordinator Jim Webner at [jwebner@tcadp.org](mailto:jwebner@tcadp.org).

10/1/18