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## **THE DEATH PENALTY INFORMATION CENTER WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR**

### **Long-Time Director Assumes New Role, as Organization Expands Resources**

(Washington, D.C.) The Board of Directors of the Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC) is pleased to announce that Robert Dunham will become the organization's new Executive Director, effective March 16, 2015. DPIC's current Director, Richard Dieter, will become the organization's Senior Program Director.

Mr. Dunham received his bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and his law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1989. For the past twenty years, he has served as an appellate litigator in capital cases in Pennsylvania, most recently as an Assistant Federal Defender in Harrisburg. Mr. Dunham is nationally recognized as an expert in complex capital litigation and has conducted trainings for state and federal courts, bar associations, and practitioners across the country for many years. He is an adjunct professor of law at the Villanova University School of Law, where he has taught the school's death penalty seminar. Prior to his role as a capital litigator, Mr. Dunham served as the Executive Assistant to State Representative Robert O'Donnell in Pennsylvania. He has also served on the Boards of Northwest Victim Services in Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, and the Steering Committee of the American Bar Association's Death Penalty Representation Project.

Professor Anthony Amsterdam of New York University's School of Law, who has been a Board Member of DPIC since its founding in 1990, praised Mr. Dunham's vast experience and command of the death penalty issue: "DPIC has been fortunate to have had excellent leadership over the past two decades, and Rob Dunham is the best person to maintain those high standards in the years ahead. As the debate on the death penalty reaches a crucial stage, DPIC will be expanding its resources to provide accurate, insightful, and extensive information on this vital issue."

DPIC Board President David Bradford, a partner and Co-chair of the Litigation Department at Jenner and Block in Chicago, who has been a DPIC Board Member for twenty-five years, remarked, "We are grateful for Richard Dieter's fine service for over two decades, and we are excited that he will be staying on in a senior capacity at the

organization. His presence will ensure a smooth transition, and he will be an invaluable resource as researcher, writer, and analyst.”

Since its inception, DPIC has produced 42 major reports on the death penalty, including its annual Year End reports highlighting recent statistics and developments in capital punishment. Two of its major reports were prepared at the request of a U.S. Congressional Subcommittee. Key reports were based on five national opinion polls commissioned by DPIC. All have made a significant contribution to the country’s deeper understanding of the issues surrounding the death penalty.

DPIC’s extensive website has become the most important resource on many aspects of capital punishment. Traffic to the site has grown steadily over the years, and it is recognized everywhere as a reliable, comprehensive resource. Recently, the U.S. Library of Congress announced it had chosen DPIC’s website as a source for archiving important information on this issue. In addition, DPIC maintains two online educational curricula—one for high school students and one for universities—that are widely used and free to the public.

To find information on any aspect of the death penalty, call DPIC directly at 202-289-2275. If you are a member of the media and would like to arrange a meeting with Robert Dunham, call Margot Friedman at Dupont Circle Communications, 202-332-5550. Mr. Dunham’s email is [rdunham@deathpenaltyinfo.org](mailto:rdunham@deathpenaltyinfo.org).

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