

# EXPENSIVE AND INEFFECTIVE

## Ending the Death Penalty in Nevada



### RETRIBUTION AT ANY COST?

- Death penalty trials cost Nevadans at least **\$500,000\*** more than non-capital cases.<sup>1</sup>
- Only 20% of death penalty cases result in a death penalty sentence.
- Filing a death penalty case costs approximately \$50,000. That money is spent regardless of outcome.
- Nevada has not executed anyone in over 10 years.
- There are over 50 cases pending currently in Clark County, only a small fraction of which will result in a death sentence, all on the taxpayer's dime.
- Pursuing a death penalty case is always more expensive than a sentence of life without parole.

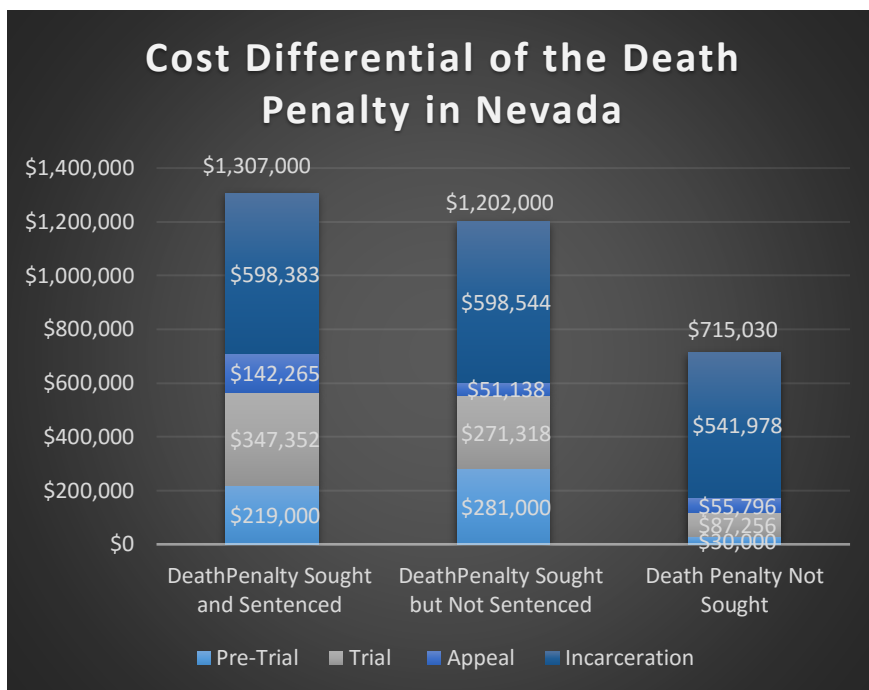


Figure 1 Source: State of Nevada Performance Audit Fiscal Costs of the Death Penalty 2014

### A FUTILE ENDEAVOUR

- Nevada cannot currently carry out executions due to pharmaceutical companies' refusal to sell the death drug cocktail to states for purposes of capital punishment.
- Nevada spent \$858,000 on a new execution chamber in 2015 that will not be used because of the lack of drug availability.<sup>2</sup>
- Only 12 people have been executed in the last 40 years in Nevada, yet we continue to incur the costs of capital trials. Life without parole is enough.
- A 2009 study revealed 88% of criminologists do not see the death penalty as a deterrent.
- Nationwide FBI data shows lower homicide rates in states without the death penalty than in states with the death penalty.<sup>3</sup>
- While the death penalty does not stop crime, the money we put towards it could be reallocated to solving cold cases, rape kits, and other facets of public safety.

\* Numbers do not reflect input from all state agencies.

<sup>1</sup> State of Nevada Performance Audit Fiscal Costs of the Death Penalty 2014

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/nevada/nevada-execution-chamber-construction-moving-forward-despite-drug-cutoff>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/death-penalty/us-death-penalty-facts/the-death-penalty-and-deterrence>