

# Terry Lenamon on the Death Penalty

Sidebar with a Board Certified Expert Criminal Trial Attorney



**Terence M. Lenamon** is a Florida Bar certified expert in the area of criminal trial law. With over 17 years experience he has built a reputation as one of Florida's most respected criminal defense lawyers. His defense has been sought by many high-profile clients and has led him through 20 first-degree murder trials and eight death penalty cases. That experience has brought him national recognition as a go-to commentator on death penalty issues. He is the force behind both [deathpenaltyblog.com](http://deathpenaltyblog.com) and Florida Capital Resource Center ([floridacapitalresourcecenter.org](http://floridacapitalresourcecenter.org)), and can be reached at [terry@lenamonlaw.com](mailto:terry@lenamonlaw.com).

## Richard Nields Will Not be Executed - Clemency by Ohio Governor Strickland

Posted on June 8, 2010 by [Terry Lenamon](#)

[Jeff Gamso](#) alerted us to **Richard Nields** being granted clemency, when he commented to the [Execution List for the remainder of 2010](#): Nields' name needs to be removed. Wow. Great news, right?

Instead of being killed by the State of Ohio on Thursday, June 10, 2010, Richard Nields will remain alive to serve a life sentence without parole.

### *The Controversy*

There's no controversy that Richard Nields killed his girlfriend. Nields has admitted to doing this. [The controversy surrounds a prosecutorial expert with questionable credentials](#) who provided testimony that was refuted -- and established an argument that Nields' case was never one intended to be subject to possible capital punishment.

### *The Legal Arguments*

For all the details on the legal arguments surrounding Richard Nields' case, check out the great posts over at [Gamso for the Defense](#). (More than one post, you can't get better than Gamso.)

### *The Governor's Statement and the Prosecutor's Reaction*

To read [Ohio Governor Ted Strickland's Statement on Parole Board Recommendation Regarding Richard Nields](#), check out the Governor's web site. (No real details, just a summary of everything that was reviewed - U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, etc.)

Learn the [reaction of the prosecutor in the case by reading his comments](#) to the news media. (He's not pleased.)

### *Media Reaction*

Digest the reaction of the main stream media to the Clemency decision (first by the parole board, then by the governor):

- Associated Press --"rare vote for mercy"
- WKSU - "rare commutation"
- FoxNews - "rare death row clemency"

Guess they're not seeing mercy all that often these days. Right?

*Mercy By Any Motivation Still Means a Life is Spared*

Perhaps we should all think about that -- and maybe governors with budgets filled with red ink will be more inclined to follow the merciful example set by Governor Strickland this week. Mercy motivated by money still saves a life.

Hint, hint.

*Thanks to Gamso.*