

The Honorable J. Kevin Stitt
Oklahoma State Capitol
2300 N Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

The Honorable C. Allen McCall, J.D.
Mr. Larry Morris
Ms. Kelly Doyle
Mr. Adam Luck
Mr. Robert Gilliland, J.D.
2915 N Classen Blvd, Suite 405
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Ryan Kiesel
Executive Director

Michael C. Redman
Interim Legal Director

Nicole McAfee
**Director of Policy and
Advocacy**

Dear Governor Stitt and Members of the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board:

We are writing to you today to remind you that it is never too late to extend the hand of justice. It is that principle that drove our role in the fight to see HB1269 enacted, a process to which you lent your support and signature to grant so many people the justice they deserved. And our state is better for it. While most criminal justice reform efforts require a broad coalition in order to become a reality, in some instances, the singular power of the executive can deliver swift and necessary relief. The case of Julius Jones is precisely such an instance. Today, we respectfully ask that you exercise your pivotal role in the justice system by commuting the sentence of Julius Jones.

Julius's story, like so many you have considered before, is one where the systemic biases and the injustices are clear. It keeps us up at night--the idea that for 19 years this man has waited to die; the result of a system stacked against him at nearly every turn.

Julius was unable to afford an attorney. And while we all know public defenders to be brilliant, they too operate in a system in which they are limited by underfunded offices and attorneys who manage too many clients, and how those limits are compounded when you add the extra work required by a Capital trial. When you read through court documents, it becomes quickly clear that Julius doesn't match the description of the shooter from eyewitness testimony, nor does evidence exist to overturn the several witnesses who spoke to Julius's alibi. Julius was prosecuted by a District Attorney who sent more than 50 people to their deaths--many of those convictions have been overturned or called into question.

We understand that crime survivors and the public want to see justice done and the enormous pressure law enforcement and District Attorneys face to bring closure to a grieving family and a grieving community. But with time and perspective, we know our criminal

justice system is far from infallible. Julius was not judged by a jury of his peers. Julius was convicted with inconsistent evidence that ignored so many of the relevant questions and obvious issues. We know your power does not call you to sit as if you were a juror in his case, but you do have the power to grant Julius justice for the first time since he encountered the criminal legal system. Julius has effectively already served a life sentence, living more of his life behind bars than he did in the free world. It should shake all of us to our core that a man's only life could be robbed of him with such an embarrassing lack of evidence. With your pen, you can return Julius to his family and community that miss him every day and give him the opportunity for restoration.



We urge you to grant Julius a hearing on the soonest possible pardon and parole docket and to listen to his story, and to all of us who want him back with us in this great state, we call home. Justice is in your hands, and in the case of Julius Jones, we hope you will use it to hear his case and ultimately commute his sentence to time served.

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Sincerely,
Ryan Kiesel

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