



Columbia University Center For Bioethics
Landmark Symposium on

The Supreme Court and the
Legal, Medical, and Ethical Challenges
to Execution by Lethal Injection

On January 7, 2008, the United States Supreme Court heard arguments in *Baze v. Rees*, a pioneering case challenging the constitutionality of judicial execution by lethal injection. This is the first case since *Roe v. Wade* that the Supreme Court has grappled so intimately with the constitutionality of a medical procedure. With nearly four thousand inmates on Death Row in the thirty-seven states that utilize lethal injection in judicial execution, this method has recently drawn close scrutiny. Nearly all states have enacted a *de facto* moratorium, halting executions until the Supreme Court hands down its opinion on whether the three-drug cocktail method currently used in lethal injection administration violates the Eighth Amendment ban on "cruel and unusual punishment."

9:00-9:15 AM:	Introduction
9:15-10:00 AM:	Paul Appelbaum, MD: "The Hippocratic Paradox: The Ethical Conflict Regarding Physician Participation in the Execution Procedure"
10:00-10:45 AM:	Allen Hyman, MD: "Anesthetic Goals and Confronting Intraoperative Awareness"
10:45-11:30 AM:	Mark Heath, MD: "Report from the Field: The Realities of Lethal Injection"
11:30-12:00 Noon:	Lunch Break
12:00-12:45 PM:	Deborah Denno, JD, PhD: "Constitutional (Non)Compliance?: A Legal and Legislative History of Judicial Execution by Lethal Injection"
12:45-1:30 PM:	Ginger Anders, JD: " From the Supreme Court: Baze v Rees and the Future of Execution by Lethal Injection"
1:30-2:00 PM:	Panel Discussion
2:00 PM:	Adjourn

The nationally recognized speakers will address a wide range of questions including:

- What are the ethical, moral, and professional reasons why a physician may elect, or decline, to participate in execution by lethal injection?
- How does the three-drug cocktail work? How was it developed? What are the risks of conscious paralysis and intraoperative awareness?
- What happens when the execution procedure is not carried out as ideally planned?
- How did legal and legislative processes lead to the implementation of the three-drug cocktail method of lethal injection?
- What are the future implications for judicial execution by lethal injection, given the January 2008 Supreme Court proceedings? Will future interpretations of the Eighth Amendment change to mitigate risk of cruel and unusual punishment?

Wednesday, January 23, 2008, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Columbia University, The Low Library Faculty Room
116th and Broadway