LAW OF PARTIES OVERVIEW

Under current law, “Person A” may be sentenced to death for 3 wildly different levels of participation in an offense:

(1) Person A **alone** causes the intentional death of another person under specified special circumstances. OR

(2) Person A does not cause anyone’s death but A **does** intend for the death to occur. A intends to promote or assist co-defendant B who causes an intentional death of another person under specified special circumstances, and A solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid B in the capital murder. OR

(3) Person A does not cause anyone’s death and A **does not** intend for the death to occur. A and B conspire to commit a felony other than murder, such as robbery. During the robbery, B alone intentionally causes the death of another person in furtherance of the robbery. A **should have anticipated** that B would commit murder as a result of carrying out the robbery.

*This law is Disproportional in that It Treats Defendants Who Do Intend to Kill the Same as Those Defendants Who Do Not Have an Intent to Kill.*

- Jeffrey Lee Wood received the death penalty for sitting in a truck outside of a convenience store in 1996 while a friend went into the store and killed the clerk in the process of demanding the store’s safe.

- Levi King was sentenced to life without parole for an interstate killing spree that ended at a farmhouse in Pampa where he killed 3 members of a family that were strangers to him.