**Session Description:** Executions and new death sentences are at historic lows. States are reevaluating the efficacy of capital punishment in the face of mounting legal challenges and logistical barriers. Get the latest on recent reforms, repeal attempts, litigation, emerging methods of execution and lethal injection hurdles.

**Biographies**

**Representative Roger Goodman**  
**Washington State Legislature**

Representative Roger Goodman is chair of the House Public Safety Committee, with oversight of the criminal justice system. He is also a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee. His legislative work has focused on reducing drunk driving, the harm from domestic violence, and expanding early childhood education programs. An attorney and criminal justice expert, Goodman directed Washington’s Sentencing Guidelines Commission in the late 1990s and he previously served in the 1980s and 1990s on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., as legislative director, counsel and chief of staff for two senior Democratic members of Congress. Goodman is admitted to practice law in Washington state and Rhode Island, the 1st and 9th Federal Circuits and the U.S. Supreme Court. He received an A.B. (artium baccalaureus) degree as a senior fellow from Dartmouth College; a Juris Doctor degree from George Washington University; and a Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard University, where he concentrated on social policy issues, including criminal justice, public health, education reform and economic security.

**Representative Renny Cushing**  
**New Hampshire General Court**

Representative Renny Cushing is a seven-term state legislator and Chair of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. A lifelong advocate for social justice, and the survivor of two homicide victims, he works at the state, national and international levels to promote human rights and support for victims of crime and is recognized as a pioneer in the effort to build bridges between the death penalty abolition movement and the victims’ rights movement. He led the decades-long fight against capital punishment in New Hampshire, which culminated in late May when the legislature overrode the governor’s veto of a repeal bill. He is a founder of Murder Victims Families for Human Rights, and the New Hampshire Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, and is a former member of the Board of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty. Representative Cushing received the Hall of Fame Award given by the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Bill of Rights Champion Award from the American Civil Liberties Union-NH, and he Legislator of the Year from the National Alliance on Mental Illness-NH.

**Senator Rhonda Fields**  
**Colorado General Assembly**

Senator Rhonda Fields was elected to the Colorado Senate in 2016, becoming the first African American woman to serve Aurora’s Senate District 29, Arapahoe County. Fields was first elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 2010 and re-elected in 2012 and 2014,
representing the City of Aurora. In 2012, Fields was appointed speaker pro tempore. Fields has championed and tackled many tough issues ranging from school safety, accessible health care and climate change, to criminal justice reform measures. She has crafted bipartisan solutions for statewide options to expand affordable housing, support entrepreneurship and make sure government works for all of Colorado. Fields has always prioritized innovative policies that invest in school safety while making a difference in the future of our children and youth. Currently, Fields is the assistant majority leader of the Colorado Senate, chairs the Health and Human Services Committee, and serves on the State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee. Prior to becoming an elected official, Fields opened the doors to the Dayton Street Opportunity Center to improve health care and educational and economical outcomes for children and families. The DAWN Clinic is located within the center, which is a student-run free clinic operated by CU Anschutz medical students for uninsured patients from the Aurora community. She has one daughter and four grandchildren.

Representative Jared Olsen
Wyoming Legislature

Representative Jared Olsen has represented District 11 in Wyoming since 2017. He is a member of the Joint Appropriations Committee, a founding member of the Blockchain Task Force, a member of the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision, the Wyoming Court Security Commission, and a former member of the House Judiciary Committee. Olsen is the author and prime sponsor of HB145 (2019), a bill he introduced to repeal the death penalty in Wyoming. The bill gained more success than any attempted measure in the history of Wyoming, passing the House of Representatives by a clear majority and falling only three votes short in the Senate. Olsen is a member of the Wyoming Campaign to End the Death Penalty 2020. He is also a published author in the New York Times on the topic of the Federal Department of Justice’s recent action to reinstate the federal death penalty. Olsen was chairman of the Laramie County Republican Party from 2014-2016 and vice-chairman of the Wyoming Republican Party from 2017-2019. Olsen received his Bachelor of Science in political science from Weber State University, Master of Public Administration from the University of Wyoming, and his Juris Doctor from the University of Wyoming College of Law. He is an attorney and small business owner in Cheyenne, Wyo. He enjoys spending his free-time with his wife and three children.

Representative Paul Ray
Utah State Legislature

Representative Paul Ray represents the 13th District for the state of Utah which encompasses the cities of Clinton, Sunset, West Point and Clearfield. He was first elected in 2000. He currently serves as the CEO for the Northern Wasatch Home Builders Association, is active in coaching youth sports and serves as a judge for high school debate competitions. Ray was born and raised in Peru, Ind. He graduated from Peru High School and attended Indiana University. During his high school years, he participated in football, basketball, baseball and track. He also performed in the Peru Circus in acts such as single trapeze, balancing bike and high wire. He moved to Utah in 1990 to take a position with a local bank. Ray has spent more than 20 years in banking and business gaining the expertise to manage the fiscal affairs of the state.