

November 12, 2025

The Honorable Kevin Stitt
Governor of Oklahoma
2300 North Lincoln Boulevard,
State Capitol Building, Suite 212
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Sent electronically

RE: LDF Urges Grant of Clemency to Tremane Wood

Dear Governor Stitt,

I write with great urgency on behalf of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF),¹ in light of the state of Oklahoma's intention to execute Tremane Wood tomorrow, November 13, 2025. We ask that you effectuate the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board's 3-2 recommendation and use your authority to grant Mr. Wood clemency in light of the possible role of racial discrimination in his case and the allegations of egregious due process violations that remain unresolved.

There were undeniable due process concerns in the trial phase of Mr. Wood's case. His court-appointed trial attorney, John Albert, admitted to drinking alcohol heavily during Mr. Wood's trial, and other attorneys and court filings allege that he was also using cocaine at the time.² He temporarily lost his legal license due to client neglect.³ Mr. Wood's attorney had two other capital clients at the same time. Their cases were retried and the trial court ordered both individuals removed from death row because they had received ineffective assistance of counsel. And he did not spend remotely enough time preparing for Mr. Wood's defense, as he billed only two hours of time outside of court, when the average time a defense attorney billed for a capital case at the time was 3,357 hours per trial. Adding insult to injury, Mr. Albert never visited Tremane Wood and did not accept any phone calls from him or his family.⁴ Later, he wrote Mr. Wood apologizing for this life altering inadequate defense.⁵ Mr. Albert also

¹ Founded in 1940 by Justice Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) is the nation's first and foremost civil rights law organization. Through litigation, advocacy, public education, and outreach, LDF strives to secure equal justice under the law for Black people in America, and to break down barriers that prevent them from realizing their basic civil and human rights. LDF has long been concerned about the pernicious influence of race on the administration of criminal justice and has a long history of challenging the unconstitutional imposition of the death penalty.

² Hilary Anderson, *After controversial trial, an Oklahoma Man makes a final plea to avoid execution*, THE GUARDIAN (Nov. 12, 2025) <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/nov/12/tremane-wood-execution-oklahoma>.

³ *State ex rel. Oklahoma Bar Ass'n v. Albert*, 163 P.3d 527 (Okla. 2007).

⁴ Jessica Schulberg, *Oklahoma moves to execute Tremane Wood, despite evidence of prosecutorial misconduct*, HUFFINGTON POST (Jun 13, 2025), https://www.huffpost.com/entry/oklahoma-sets-execution-tremane-wood_n_684afd19e4bod6fb6cd8eabe

⁵ Sierra Pfeifer, *Family of Oklahoma death row inmate asks Stitt for Clemency ahead of scheduled execution*, THE OKLAHOMAN (Nov. 12, 2025) [https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/family-oklahoma-death-row-inmate-193444664.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHRocHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLnNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAGx9-](https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/family-oklahoma-death-row-inmate-193444664.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHRocHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLnNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAGx9-GKJK3b9w8T9iAGH2JqrOMEcaFstI5j8qFwFUTssP34HBwZBmVLB5xBd8yI_4X_Iu3PMoVi0yIAetDCOpP6v7uiyqFocccgyVj1r9zFN8QXVbsROLkJ88n3sYPgiMBYQ4Xwn_TdXRxPiHe4LsAocuHSUkNtQ-vJHfdNIuxo_)

GKJK3b9w8T9iAGH2JqrOMEcaFstI5j8qFwFUTssP34HBwZBmVLB5xBd8yI_4X_Iu3PMoVi0yIAetDCOpP6v7uiyqFocccgyVj1r9zFN8QXVbsROLkJ88n3sYPgiMBYQ4Xwn_TdXRxPiHe4LsAocuHSUkNtQ-vJHfdNIuxo_.

represented two other capital clients at the same time; the trial court removed both individuals from death row and granted them new trials because they had received ineffective assistance of counsel from Mr. Albert.⁶

In addition, Mr. Wood's lawyers have made credible allegations that the trial prosecutors violated both *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963), and *Napue v. Illinois*, 360 U.S. 264 (1959), by withholding key impeachment evidence and knowingly using false testimony in Mr. Wood's case.⁷ These claims are currently the subject of a petition for a writ of certiorari to the United States Supreme Court.⁸ A grant of clemency would give Mr. Wood a chance to have his constitutional rights vindicated.

In addition to the procedural irregularities, LDF is particularly concerned that racial bias may have infected Mr. Wood's trial. In a county that is approximately 14 percent Black,⁹ Mr. Wood was convicted by a nearly all-white jury, and the jury foreperson, the sole Black person on his jury, explained that she "signed the one for death because everyone was waiting on me. I didn't want everyone to be here."¹⁰ In 2017 the judge that sentenced Mr. Wood allegedly referred to Mexicans as "filthy animals."¹¹ A 2017 study found significant racial disparities in Oklahoma's death sentencing practices based on the race of the victim, concluding¹² that where – as here – the victim was a white male, defendants of color like Mr. Wood are twice as likely as white defendant to be sentenced to death.¹³ Today, Black people make up the majority of the people of color executed in the modern era of the death penalty.¹⁴ Given this history of racial bias in capital sentencing in Oklahoma, these issues must be taken extremely seriously.

The state should also heed the voices of those harmed by the offense. Here, Mr. Wipf's mother, the surviving victim of the robbery, and the state's key witness against Mr. Wood—the mother of his oldest child—have all made clear that they do not wish to see him executed.¹⁵ As recently as November 1, Mr. Wood's attorney has cited Mr. Wipf's mother and the surviving victim speaking out against this execution.¹⁶

⁶ Austin Breasette, *Faith leaders make plea to save the life of death row inmate Tremane Wood*, KFOR (Nov. 11, 2025) <https://kfor.com/news/local/faith-leaders-make-plea-to-save-the-life-of-death-row-inmate-tremane-wood/>.

⁷ Application for Stay of Execution at 1-3, *Tremane Wood vs. State of Okla.*, No. 17-6891, (U.S. Oct. 30, 2025).

⁸ Petition for a Writ of Certiorari, *Tremane Wood vs. State of Okla.*, No. 17-6891, (U.S. Oct. 30, 2025).

⁹ Data USA, *Oklahoma County Race and Ethnicity*, Oklahoma County, OK (last visited Nov. 12, 2025).

[https://datausa.io/profile/geo/oklahoma-county-ok#:~:text=The%205%20largest%20ethnic%20groups,\(Hispanic\)%20\(5.73%25\).](https://datausa.io/profile/geo/oklahoma-county-ok#:~:text=The%205%20largest%20ethnic%20groups,(Hispanic)%20(5.73%25).)

¹⁰ Jessica Schulberg, *His brother admitted to a murder. He is sentenced to die for it.*, HUFFINGTON POST (Oct. 13, 2024) https://www.huffpost.com/entry/death-row-felony-murder-oklahoma_n_67094c44e4b0f3da6456d60c.

¹¹ Anderson, *supra* note 2.

¹² Glenn L. Pierce, Michael L. Radelet, and Susan Sharp, *Race and Death Sentencing for Oklahoma Homicides Committed Between 1990 and 2012*, 107 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 733 (2017).

¹³ *Id.* at 747.

¹⁴ Tina Herring, *Deeply Rooted: How Racial History Informs Oklahoma's Death Penalty*, Death Penalty Information Center (Oct. 2022) <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/research/analysis/reports/special-reports/deeply-rooted-how-racial-history-informs-oklahomas-death-penalty>.

¹⁵ Jessica Schulberg, *His brother admitted to a murder. He is set to be executed for it*, HUFFINGTON POST (Nov. 1, 2025), https://www.huffpost.com/entry/oklahoma-prepares-to-execute-tremane-wood_n_69028fb1e4b0ca9a35179e5.

¹⁶ Sierra Pfeifer, *Oklahoma pardon and parole board recommends clemency for Tremane Wood*, KOSU (Nov. 5, 2025), <https://www.kosu.org/local-news/2025-11-05/oklahoma-pardon-and-parole-board-recommends->

As you are aware, on November 5, 2025, Oklahoma's Pardon and Parole Board voted 3-2 to grant clemency to Mr. Wood. Pardon and parole board member Robert Reavis voted for clemency for Mr. Wood, explaining his view that, "When you're asking for the death penalty there is a high standard," and "I'm not sure that this attorney met that high standard. You can address it. I would like for you to, because it's an embarrassment."¹⁷ While we know you will weigh the recommendation of the pardon and parole board among others, you have the ability to prevent an indelible stain on Oklahoma's justice system by following the board's recommendation.

Governor Stitt, you have the power to prevent a serious injustice by granting Mr. Wood clemency and following the recommendation of the board of pardons and parole. We know you have taken your clemency authority seriously as you exercised it in granting clemency to Julius Jones. These cases bear striking similarities. Mr. Jones was another Black man, sentenced to death by a nearly all-white jury, prosecuted by someone with a history of misconduct, and represented by trial lawyers who did not investigate or present key evidence.¹⁸ We thus ask you to give this case the same serious consideration for the reasons laid out above. We strongly urge you to grant clemency to Mr. Wood.

Sincerely,



Tré Murphy
Director of Organizing
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.
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Washington, DC 20005

[clemency-for-tremane-wood](#).

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Deeply Rooted*, *supra* note 13.