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ATTORNEY STATEMENT: OKLAHOMA GOVERNOR COMMUTES JULIUS JONES'S DEATH SENTENCE TO LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE

After hearing strong evidence of innocence, Pardon and Parole Board twice recommended that Mr. Jones's sentence be commuted to life imprisonment *with* the possibility of parole

(November 18, 2021) Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt today exercised his statutory and constitutional authority by granting clemency to death row prisoner Julius Jones, commuting his sentence to life imprisonment without possibility of parole. This decision represents a partial adoption of the Pardon and Parole Board's two recommendations that Mr. Jones's sentence be commuted to life with the possibility of parole, based upon the strong evidence of his innocence and of the sentencing disparity, prosecutorial misconduct, racial bias and other serious problems in his case. Mr. Jones faced execution later today.

Below is a statement from Amanda Bass, attorney for Julius Jones:

"Governor Stitt took an important step today towards restoring public faith in the criminal justice system by ensuring that Oklahoma does not execute an innocent man. While we had hoped the Governor would adopt the Board's recommendation in full by commuting Julius's sentence to life with the possibility of parole in light of the overwhelming evidence of Julius's innocence, we are grateful that the Governor has prevented an irreparable mistake."

- Amanda Bass, attorney for Julius Jones
- November 18, 2021

For more information or to speak to an attorney, please contact Laura Burstein, Laura.Burstein@squirepb.com, @LauraBurstein1