ATTORNEY STATEMENT RE: OKLAHOMA COURT SETS EXECUTION DATE FOR JOHN GRANT DESPITE HIS PROFOUND REMORSE AND SERIOUS FLAWS IN HIS CAPITAL SENTENCING PROCEEDINGS

(September 20, 2021) The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals has granted the Attorney General's request to schedule the execution of John Marion Grant for October 28, 2021. ***Mr. Grant would be the first person executed in Oklahoma since the horrifically botched execution of Clayton Lockett in 2014 and the problematic execution of Charles Warner in 2015 using the wrong lethal drug.***

Mr. Grant was sentenced to death after an unfair trial at which crucial facts about his tragic background of institutional childhood abuse were not presented to his jury. Respected experts, who have since reviewed the whole of Mr. Grant's trial, have concluded that Mr. Grant received "one of the most incompetently assembled and presented" death penalty sentencing defenses ever seen. Judges on both state and federal review offered passionate dissents because of the extraordinary ineffectiveness of Mr. Grant's trial counsel and subsequent decisions allowing his death sentence to stand. One of Mr. Grant's trial attorneys has since been disbarred for conduct that was ongoing at the time of Mr. Grant's trial.

Below is a statement from Sarah Jernigan, an attorney for John Grant:

"John Grant is far from the worst of the worst. He has taken full responsibility for his crime and has apologized to his victim's family. Had the jury learned of the horrific victimization he experienced in State-run institutions when he was just a child, there is at least a reasonable probability he would not have been sentenced to death. Rather than killing him now, the State should extend him the mercy he was denied as a vulnerable child in its custody."

- *Sarah Jernigan, Assistant Federal Public Defender, attorney for John Grant*
- *September 20, 2021*

Today's order can be accessed here: https://tinyurl.com/d664fxbp

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