

To: All ASA Members

From: ASA Executive Committee

Re: Lethal Injection Amicus Brief

Date: January 14, 2008

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At the ASA 2007 annual meeting the Executive Committee was invited to discuss the possibility of ASA submitting an amicus curiae brief regarding lethal injection in a case pending before the U.S. Supreme Court. After much debate it was our judgment that not weighing in on this limited basis could have allowed others to define, perhaps inaccurately, the medical specialty of anesthesiology.

The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in *Baze v Rees* on January 7, 2008.

ASA submitted an amicus curiae brief in this case, on behalf of neither party, to describe the scientific and medical research related to the delivery of anesthetic care and to expressly distinguish executions by lethal injection, as currently performed in the United States, from the science, art, and practice of anesthesiology.

To receive a copy of the brief, please contact the ASA Communications Department at 847-268-9110.