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Deadly justice: a statistical portrait of the death penalty, by Frank R. Baumgartner et al. Oxford, 2017. 396p bibl index ISBN 9780190841539, \$99.00; ISBN 9780190841546 pbk, \$29.95; ISBN 9780190841553 ebook, contact publisher for price.

In 1972, the US Supreme Court ruled in *Furman v. Georgia* that the death penalty had been imposed through procedures that were not acceptable, thus invalidating the death penalty in the United States. Then, in *Gregg v. Georgia* in 1976, the Court affirmed the legitimacy of the death penalty using revised procedures. Baumgartner (UNC) et al. question whether the death penalty as it is practiced today meets the standards for constitutional legitimacy imposed in *Furman*. Baumgartner et al. address every empirical issue relevant to that question, ranging from the process by which capital punishment is meted out in jurisdictions, to which crimes in which jurisdictions merit the death penalty, to how often persons are exonerated from death row. They also provide extensive statistical evidence of differences in execution rates according to race and gender, and consider the evidence of whether the death penalty deters crime. This excellent volume is essential reading for anyone interested in the constitutionality of the death penalty.

--J. S. Taylor, *The College of New Jersey*

Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates through professionals.