

# FEDERAL DEFENDER SERVICES OF IDAHO

NICOLE OWENS  
FEDERAL DEFENDER

MARK ACKLEY  
FIRST ASSISTANT

DEBORAH A. CZUBA  
CAPITAL HABEAS UNIT

STEVEN RICHERT  
POCATELLO TRIAL UNIT

## **For Immediate Release:**

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We are angered but not surprised that the State of Idaho botched the execution of Thomas Creech today. This is what happens when unknown individuals with unknown training are assigned to carry out an execution. This morning, they tried and failed 10 times to access Tom's veins in both of his arms and both legs so they could inject him with the State's mysteriously acquired pentobarbital. This is precisely the kind of mishap we warned the State and the Courts could happen when attempting to execute one of the country's oldest death-row inmates in circumstances completely shielded in secrecy despite a well-known history of getting drugs from shady sources. Yesterday, the State called Mr. Creech's worries "patently absurd" in its motions to the U.S. Supreme Court. Unfortunately, what is absurd is Idaho's continuing efforts to kill this harmless old man, who by this point surely has suffered enough.