



## **A Juror's Childhood Memories: 'They'd take him out and kill him'**

*By CDPL Staff*

The legacy of lynching lives on, and sometimes it walks right into our courtrooms. In 1994, this white juror was called to serve on a capital trial in Davidson County, North Carolina. He was excused before making it onto the final jury, but his words chillingly reveal how growing up in a culture of lynching shaped his notions of American "justice."

This was the juror's response when the prosecutor asked whether he believed that, if proven guilty, the defendant should automatically get the death penalty regardless of any mitigating evidence:

24       REMEMBER, THAT WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I WAS BROUGHT UP THAT  
25       WAY.   AND I CAN REMEMBER WHEN A MAN RAPED A GIRL, THAT  
1       THEY'D TAKE HIM OUT AND KILL HIM - I MEAN MOBS WOULD LIKE MY  
2       DADDY---   OF COURSE, THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION, BUT I MEAN  
3       IT'S TIME THAT - IF THE COURT DON'T DO IT, I DON'T KNOW.