Contents

Acknowledgments ix

Introduction: Toward and Beyond the Abolition of Capital Punishment Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., and Austin Sarat 1

Part I. Assessing the Prospects for Abolition

1 The Executioner’s Waning Defenses 19
   Michael L. Radelet

2 Blinded by Science on the Road to Abolition? 46
   Simon A. Cole and Jay D. Aronson

3 Abolition in the United States by 2050:
   On Political Capital and Ordinary Acts of Resistance 72
   Bernard E. Harcourt

4 The Beginning of the End? 97
   Carol S. Steiker and Jordan M. Steiker

5 Rocked but Still Rolling:
   The Enduring Institution of Capital Punishment
   in Historical and Comparative Perspective 139
   Michael McCann and David T. Johnson

Part II. Debating Lethal Injection

6 For Execution Methods Challenges, the Road to Abolition Is Paved with Paradox 183
   Deborah W. Denno
7 Perfect Execution: Abolitionism and the Paradox of Lethal Injection 215
   Timothy V. Kaufman-Osborn

8 “No Improvement over Electrocution or Even a Bullet”: Lethal Injection and the Meaning of Speed and Reliability in the Modern Execution Process 252
   Jürgen Martschukat

PART III. PUTTING THE DEATH PENALTY IN CONTEXT

9 Torture, War, and Capital Punishment: Linkages and Missed Connections 281
   Robin Wagner-Pacifici

10 Making Difference: Modernity and the Political Formations of Death 319
   Peter Fitzpatrick

About the Contributors 349
Index 353