Jurors’ Stories of Death
Law, Meaning, and Violence

The scope of Law, Meaning, and Violence is defined by the wide-ranging scholarly debates signaled by each of the words in the title. Those debates have taken place among and between lawyers, anthropologists, political theorists, sociologists, and historians, as well as literary and cultural critics. This series is intended to recognize the importance of such ongoing conversations about law, meaning, and violence as well as to encourage and further them.

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For my love and life partner,
Ruth Fleury-Steiner
As an analogy, it was like taking a person, and you play doctor today. We will give you instructions on how to amputate a limb. If we take it off, the patient might regain use of that arm; we do not want you to amputate it prematurely. And now, you decide! We will give you the help of other people, but you cannot ask questions—they will just tell you what they think you should do. I mean, they tried to prepare us, but were we prepared? No, I don’t feel like we were. . . . We all looked at each other and said, “Now what do we do?”

—Former capital juror Cynthia Henry