

that it failed “to allow the particularized consideration of relevant aspects of the character and record of each convicted defendant.”<sup>104</sup> *Lockett* and *Woodson* have since been endorsed by a Court majority.<sup>105</sup> Thus, a great measure of discretion was again accorded the sentencing authority, be it judge or jury, subject only to the consideration that the legislature must prescribe aggravating factors.<sup>106</sup>

The Court has explained this apparent contradiction as constituting recognition that “individual culpability is not always measured by the category of crime committed,”<sup>107</sup> and as the product of an attempt to pursue the “twin objectives” of “measured, consistent application” of the death penalty and “fairness to the accused.”<sup>108</sup> The requirement that aggravating circumstances be spelled out by statute serves a narrowing purpose that helps consistency of application; absence of restriction on mitigating evidence helps

<sup>104</sup> *Woodson v. North Carolina*, 428 U.S. 280, 303 (1976) (opinion of Justice Stewart, joined by Justices Powell and Stevens). *Accord*, *Roberts v. Louisiana*, 428 U.S. 325 (1976) (statute mandating death penalty for five categories of homicide constituting first-degree murder).

<sup>105</sup> *Eddings v. Oklahoma*, 455 U.S. 104, 110 (1982) (adopting *Lockett*); *Sumner v. Shuman*, 483 U.S. 66 (1987) (adopting *Woodson*). The majority in *Eddings* was composed of Justices Powell, Brennan, Marshall, Stevens, and O'Connor; Chief Justice Burger and Justices White, Blackmun, and Rehnquist dissented. The *Shuman* majority was composed of Justices Blackmun, Brennan, Marshall, Powell, Stevens, and O'Connor; dissenting were Justices White and Scalia and Chief Justice Rehnquist. *Woodson* and the first *Roberts v. Louisiana* had earlier been followed in the second *Roberts v. Louisiana*, 431 U.S. 633 (1977), a *per curiam* opinion from which Chief Justice Burger, and Justices Blackmun, White, and Rehnquist dissented.

<sup>106</sup> Justice White, dissenting in *Lockett* from the Court's holding on consideration of mitigating factors, wrote that he “greatly fear[ed] that the effect of the Court's decision today will be to compel constitutionally a restoration of the state of affairs at the time *Furman* was decided, where the death penalty is imposed so erratically and the threat of execution is so attenuated for even the most atrocious murders that ‘its imposition would then be the pointless and needless extinction of life with only marginal contributions to any discernible social or public purposes.’” 438 U.S. at 623. More recently, Justice Scalia voiced similar misgivings. “Shortly after introducing our doctrine *requiring* constraints on the sentencer's discretion to ‘impose’ the death penalty, the Court began developing a doctrine *forbidding* constraints on the sentencer's discretion to ‘decline to impose’ it. This second doctrine—counterdoctrine would be a better word—has completely exploded whatever coherence the notion of ‘guided discretion’ once had. . . . In short, the practice which in *Furman* had been described as the discretion to sentence to death and pronounced constitutionally prohibited, was in *Woodson* and *Lockett* renamed the discretion not to sentence to death and pronounced constitutionally required.” *Walton v. Arizona*, 497 U.S. 639, 661, 662 (1990) (concurring in the judgment). For a critique of these criticisms of *Lockett*, see Scott E. Sundby, *The Lockett Paradox: Reconciling Guided Discretion and Unguided Mitigation in Capital Sentencing*, 38 UCLA L. REV. 1147 (1991).

<sup>107</sup> *Roberts v. Louisiana*, 428 U.S. 325, 333 (1976) (plurality opinion of Justices Stewart, Powell, and Stevens) (quoting *Furman v. Georgia*, 408 U.S. 238, 402 (1972) (Chief Justice Burger dissenting)).

<sup>108</sup> *Eddings v. Oklahoma*, 455 U.S. 104, 110–11 (1982).