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Dear Kambiz,

I'm pleased to report some great news. [ProCon.org advanced to the final round of the Knight News Challenge!](#)

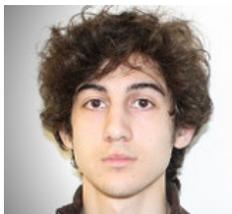
ProCon.org is one of 45 semi-finalists, out of more than 1,000 entries, in the prestigious Knight News Challenge for 2015. The competition is a collaboration between the Knight Foundation, the Democracy Fund, the Hewlett Foundation, and the Rita Allen Foundation. The \$3,000,000 fund will be divided among entrants with winning solutions to the question: "How might we better inform voters and increase civic participation before, during and after elections?"

Our **top five** research updates from the last two weeks are listed below.



1. [Governor of Puerto Rico Legalizes Medical Marijuana in the US Territory](#) - Governor Padilla's executive order allowing medical marijuana took immediate effect, although the island's health secretary has three months to issue a report on how to implement it.

2. [South African High Court Allows Assisted Suicide for Terminally Ill Man](#) - On Apr. 30, 2015 the High Court in Pretoria granted Robin Stransham-Ford the right to have a doctor help him end his life. Physician-assisted suicide remains illegal in South Africa as the ruling applied only to Mr. Stransham-Ford.



3. [Should Dzhokhar Tsarnaev Get the Death Penalty?](#) - To help people better understand the Boston Marathon bomber trial and issues surrounding the death penalty in general, we present several pro and con quotes about whether or not Tsarnaev should get the death penalty. We also include a summary of

the attack, the trial, and the sentencing phase, along with a list of related links.

4. [Is Life in Prison without Parole a Better Option than the Death Penalty?](#) - Read pro and con quotes from the ACLU (pro), Kenneth E. Hartman, a

prisoner serving life without parole (con), Donald McCartin, former California Superior Court judge who presided over nine death penalty sentences (pro), David R. Dow, a death row lawyer (con), and more.

5. [Gay Marriage in the US Supreme Court, 2015](#) - On Apr. 28, 2015, the US Supreme Court heard oral arguments for and against the constitutionality of same-sex marriage. The Court's ruling, expected in late June, may determine whether gay marriage becomes legal nationwide, or whether individual states will continue to decide its legality. Read about the case and its potential ramifications in our new resource.

### Headline Articles:

- [Landmark Gay Marriage Case Heard at US Supreme Court](#)
- [US Drone Strike in Pakistan Kills Civilian Hostages](#)
- [MMR Vaccine and Autism Not Linked, Says New Study](#)
- [Standardized Test Cheating Scandal Lands 11 Atlanta Educators in Prison](#)

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Please forward these updates to others who may be interested. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kamy Akhavan  
President & Managing Editor, ProCon.org

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