

7 PAGES TO DRONE KILL AN AMERICAN CITIZEN

7 pages.

That's all that current 1st Circuit Court Judge and then acting OLC head David Barron needed – in February 2010 – to dispense with niceties like the Constitution and Rule of Law before he okayed the drone killing of Anwar al-Awlaki.

Lucky for Barron – and President Obama – International Law scholar Kevin Jon Heller, never having seen that 7 page memo, raised some things Barron hadn't considered. Which led Barron to write a still totally laughable but nevertheless less ridiculous 41-page memo 5 months later, which Barron's friends insist is not-so-bad if you want to rationalize drone killing an American with no due process.

I wonder how they'll defend Barron's much more circumspect drone killing justification (especially since DOJ has redacted it beyond any legibility)?

I'll have more to say about this latter – I suspect that it shows that DOJ actually tried on 3 different theories for drone-killing Awlaki.

But for the moment, know that if you ever come before Judge Barron, he believes he legitimize drone killing you in 7 pages or less.