



Supreme Court of Florida

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Oral Argument Press Summaries Nov. 1, 2017

Wednesday, Nov. 1

League of Women Voters of Florida, et al. v. Rick Scott, Governor, [SC17-1122](#)
statewide – starts about 9:00 a.m.

The League of Women Voters and others argue that the authority to appoint appellate judges to fill openings on the Supreme Court in January 2019 belongs to the next governor. Gov. Rick Scott, whose term ends in January 2019, argues the Court should dismiss the case for lack of jurisdiction but that, on the merits, he would have the power of appointment until the next governor takes the oath of office.

Rodrick Williams v. State, [SC17-506](#)

St. Johns – starts about 9:40 a.m.

Mr. Williams was convicted of the first-degree murder of James Brookins, who was fatally shot in 2010. Mr. Williams, who was 16 at the time of the murder, was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. The Fifth District Court of Appeal upheld his conviction but ruled that resentencing was required based upon a Florida Supreme Court decision. The trial judge re-sentenced Mr. Williams to life in prison with a sentence review in 25 years. On appeal, Mr. Williams argued that findings made by the trial judge should have been made by a jury. The 5th DCA upheld the new sentence but also certified the issue as one of great public importance for this Court's review.

--10 minute break--

Suzanne Harvey, etc. v. GEICO General Insurance Co., [SC17-85](#)

Palm Beach County – starts about 10:30 a.m.

A jury found James Harvey liable for the death of John Potts, who was fatally injured in a traffic crash in 2006. The jury awarded Mr. Potts' estate \$8 million in damages. Mr. Harvey sued his insurance company, GEICO, accusing it of acting in bad faith when it failed to settle Mr. Potts' claims before trial. Mr. Harvey won his bad faith lawsuit but the Fourth District Court of Appeal overturned the trial court and sent the case back to the trial court for a judgment in favor of GEICO.

Craig Wall Sr. v. State, [SC16-1221](#)

Pinellas County – starts about 11:10 a.m.

Mr. Wall pled guilty to the first-degree murder of Laura Taft, who was fatally stabbed in 2010, and no contest to the death of their infant son. He waived a sentencing hearing before a jury and the trial judge sentenced Mr. Wall to death for both murders. This is his direct appeal.

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