



Supreme Court of Florida

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Oral Argument Press Summaries April 4, 2018

Wednesday, April 4

Anthony Newton v. Caterpillar Financial Services Corp. et al., [SC17-67](#)
Pinellas County – starts about 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Newton was injured while clearing debris from a private residential lot. He sued Caterpillar Financial Services Corp., owner of the Bobcat loader involved in the accident, for his injury, claiming that the Bobcat loader falls under the dangerous instrumentality doctrine. The trial court determined the loader is not a dangerous instrumentality and found in favor of Caterpillar. The Second District Court of Appeal agreed with the trial court's decision. Mr. Newton appealed. He argues that the Second District's decision conflicts with decisions of this Court and other district courts and that a loader is a dangerous instrumentality.

Eric Kurt Patrick v. State of Florida & Eric Kurt Patrick v. Julie L. Jones, etc., [SC16-801](#) & [SC17-246](#)

Broward County – starts about 9:40 a.m.

Mr. Patrick was convicted of the first-degree murder of Steven Schumacher, who was beaten to death in 2009. The jury voted 7-5 to recommend a death sentence, and the trial court condemned Mr. Patrick to death. His convictions and sentences for first-degree murder, kidnapping and robbery were affirmed by this Court on direct appeal in 2012. Afterward, Mr. Patrick filed a motion to vacate his convictions and sentences, which was denied by the trial court. In this appeal, Mr. Patrick raises multiple issues, including violation of this Court's ruling regarding unanimous jury findings to impose the death penalty and several claims of ineffective assistance of trial counsel.

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