



# Supreme Court of Florida

[Main Press Page](#)

[Broadcasts of Arguments Including Archives](#)

[Directions to the Supreme Court](#)

## Oral Argument Press Summaries Week of Dec. 7, 2015

*There are no arguments on Dec. 7 or Dec. 11.*

*All times are Eastern.*

**Tuesday, Dec. 8**

[Citizens of the State of Florida v. Art Graham, etc., et al. & Citizens of the State of Florida v. Art Graham, etc., et al. & Citizens of the State of Florida v. Art Graham, etc., et al. & Florida Industrial Power Users Group v. Art Graham, etc., et al., SC15-95, SC15-113, SC15-115, SC15-274](#)

Statewide Impact, 9:00 a.m.

In these consolidated cases, the Court is asked to decide if the Public Service Commission, which regulates investor-owned utilities, had the authority to let Florida Power & Light pass the costs of investing in gas reserves on to its customers. The state official appointed to represent the interests of utility customers before the PSC, along with other critics, argues that the PSC acted outside its jurisdiction. The PSC, which is chaired by Mr. Graham, and FPL defend the commission's action as appropriate.

John Sexton v. State, [SC14-62](#)  
Pasco County, Approx. 9:40 a.m.

Mr. Sexton was convicted of the first-degree murder of 94-year-old Ann Parlato, who was fatally beaten in 2010. The jury voted 10-2 to recommend a death sentence and Mr. Sexton was condemned to death. This is his direct appeal.

### **Wednesday, Dec. 9**

Inquiry Concerning a Judge: Re: Jacqueline Schwartz, [SC15-312](#)  
Miami-Dade County, 9:00 a.m.

County Judge Schwartz has been summoned before the Court to receive a public reprimand for ethical misconduct.

Donald Kipnis, et al., v Bayerische Hypo-Und Verinsbank, etc. et al., [SC15-740](#)  
Miami-Dade County, Approx. 9:10 a.m.

To settle a federal appeal, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has asked this Court to answer a question about Florida law. In a federal lawsuit, two business partners allege they were cheated when they invested in fraudulent tax shelters. They sued Bayerische Hypo-Und Verinsbank and others. The federal trial court ruled that the business partners waited too long to sue. In their appeal, the partners argued the trial court misapplied long-standing Florida law concerning when the injury to them occurred and, consequently, when the statute of limitations would take effect and bar a lawsuit.

Donte Hall v. State & Donte Hall v. Julie L., Jones, etc., [SC14-2225](#) & [SC15-859](#)  
Lake County, Approx. 9:50 a.m.

Mr. Hall was convicted of the first-degree murders of Keson Evans and Anthony Blunt, who were fatally shot in 2006. The jury voted 8-4 to recommend a death sentence for the murder of Mr. Blunt and the trial court condemned Mr. Hall to death. He also received a sentence of life imprisonment for the murder of Mr. Evans. This Court upheld the death sentence and Mr. Hall filed a post-conviction challenge in trial court. It was denied and this appeal followed.

Kevin Jeffries Jr. v. State, [SC14-1965](#)  
Bay County, Approx. 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Jeffries was convicted of the first-degree murder of 90-year-old Wallace Scott, who was fatally beaten and strangled in 2013. The jury voted 10-2 to recommend a death sentence and Mr. Jeffries was condemned to death. This is his direct appeal.

**Thursday, Dec. 10**

Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County v. Art Graham, etc., et al.,  
Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County v. Art Graham, etc., et al.,  
SC15-504 & SC15-505

Indian River County, 9:00 a.m.

The Indian River County Commission challenges rulings by the Public Service Commission, the state board chaired by Mr. Graham that regulates utilities. In one order, the PSC granted a petition by the City of Vero Beach concerning its provision of electric service to areas of the county outside the city. A franchise agreement between the city and county related to this electric service is due to expire in 2017. The PSC ruling provides that the city has the right and obligation under territorial orders issued by the PSC to continue to provide service upon expiration of the franchise agreement. In the other order, the PSC declined to answer the county's legal questions related to the situation.

Leandro de la Fuente, et al., v Florida Insurance Guaranty Association, SC15-519  
Hillsborough County, Approx. 9:40 a.m.

Mr. de la Fuente's insurer denied a claim for sinkhole damage to his home. When the insurer later was declared insolvent, the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association became involved, as provided by state law. FIGA told Mr. de la Fuente that it would pay for repairs but that, as required by state law, the payments would go directly to the contractors. Mr. de la Fuente challenged that and the trial court agreed with him. But the Second District Court of Appeal overturned the trial court's ruling and also certified the legal issues involved to be of great public importance for this Court's review.

Quentin Truehill v. State, SC14-1514  
St. Johns County, Approx. 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Truehill was convicted of the first-degree murder and kidnapping of Vincent Binder, who was fatally stabbed and chopped in 2010. The jury voted unanimously to recommend a death sentence and Mr. Truehill was sentenced to death. This is his direct appeal.

###