



# Supreme Court of Florida

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## Oral Argument Press Summaries Week of June 1-5, 2015

*There are no arguments on June 1 or June 5*

**Tuesday, June 2**

Thomas Rigterink v. State, [SC14-971](#)

Polk County – starts about 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Rigterink was convicted of the first-degree murders of Jeremy Jarvis and Allison Sousa, who were fatally stabbed in 2003. The jury voted 7-5 to recommend a death sentence for each murder and he was condemned to death. This Court vacated Mr. Rigterink's convictions on direct appeal. The United States Supreme Court overturned that decision and sent the case back to this Court for re-consideration. In its second ruling, this Court upheld the convictions and death sentences. Mr. Rigterink filed a postconviction challenge in trial court and it was denied. This is his appeal of that ruling.

Stephen Rogers, et al, v. The United States, [SC14-1465](#)  
Sarasota County – starts about 9:40 a.m.

The U.S. Court of Federal Claims denied petitions for compensation sought by 40 landowners, who alleged that their property was seized by the U.S. government so that Sarasota County could create a public hiking trail on land that had been a railroad route. The landowners appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, which ruled the issue hinged on the terms of the original deeds of property to Seaboard Railway decades ago. The federal appellate court asked this Court to determine the scope of the deeds under Florida law and policy and factual considerations in this case.

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Michael Bargo v. State, [SC14-125](#)  
Marion County – starts about 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Bargo was convicted of the first-degree murder of Seath Jackson, who was fatally shot in 2011. The jury voted 10-2 to recommend a death sentence and Mr. Bargo was condemned to death. This is his direct appeal.

### **Wednesday, June 3**

Inquiry Concerning a Judge, No. 14-557, Re: Jessica Recksiedler, [SC15-311](#)  
Seminole County – starts about 9:00 a.m.

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

Ana Maria Cardona v. State, [SC11-1446](#)  
Miami-Dade County – starts about 9:10 a.m.

Ms. Cardona was convicted of aggravated child abuse and the first-degree murder of her 3-year-old son, Lazaro Figueroa, whose body was found abandoned in 1990. She was sentenced to death but this Court later vacated her conviction and sentence and ordered a new trial. At the retrial, Ms. Cardona was convicted again. The jury voted 7-5 to recommend a death sentence and she was, for a second time, condemned to death. This is her direct appeal of that sentence.

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In Re: Amendments to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure; Amendments to the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure; New Florida Rules for Court-Appointed Alternative Dispute Resolution Neutrals, [SC14-1852](#)

statewide – starts about 10:20

The Supreme Court Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policies is asking this Court to establish standards for professional conduct to apply to dispute resolution processes not currently covered by rules, as mediation and arbitration are. This recommendation necessitates some revisions to the rules governing procedure in civil cases and in family law cases. It also necessitates new rules established to specifically apply standards to other kinds of dispute resolution processes not covered by current rules.

Dane Abdool v. State; Dane Abdool v. Julie L. Jones, etc., [SC14-582](#); [SC14-2039](#)

Orange County – starts about 11:20 a.m.

Mr. Abdool was convicted of the first-degree murder of Amelia Sookdeo, who was fatally set on fire in 2006. The jury voted 10-2 to recommend a death sentence and he was condemned to death. This Court upheld the conviction and sentence on direct appeal. Mr. Abdool filed a postconviction challenge in trial court and it was denied. This is his appeal of that ruling.

#### **Thursday, June 4**

Jermaine Jackson v. State, [SC14-842](#)

St. Lucie County – starts about 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Jackson was convicted of robbery with a firearm while wearing a mask and sentenced to life in prison with a minimum mandatory term of 10 years. He appealed, arguing, among other things, that Florida's Youthful Offender Act is unconstitutional because it determines eligibility for alternative sentencing based on a defendant's age at the time of sentencing. The Fourth District Court of Appeal upheld his sentence and affirmed the constitutionality of the statute.

Thomas Bevel v. State; Thomas Bevel v. Julie L. Jones, etc., [SC14-770](#); [SC14-2106](#)

Duval County – starts about 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Bevel was convicted of the first-degree murders of Garrick Stringfield and Mr. Stringfield's 13-year-old son, Phillip Sims, who were fatally shot in 2004. The jury voted 8-4 to recommend a death sentence for the murder of the father and 12-0 to recommend a death sentence for the murder of the son. The trial judge condemned Mr. Bevel to death for both murders. This Court upheld the sentences on direct appeal and Mr. Bevel filed a postconviction challenge in trial court. It was denied; this is his appeal of that ruling.

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Tavares Calloway v. State, [SC10-2170](#)  
Dade County – starts about 10:50 a.m.

Mr. Calloway was convicted of the first-degree murders of Frederick McGuire, Trenton Thomas, Derwin Copeland, Gary St. Charles, and Adolphus Melvin, who were fatally shot in 1997. The jury voted 7-5 to recommend five death sentences and Mr. Calloway was condemned to death five times. This is his direct appeal.

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