



# Supreme Court of Florida

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## Oral Argument Press Summaries Week of March 2-6, 2015

*There are no arguments on March 2, March 3 or March 6. Argument on March 25.*

### Wednesday, March 4

The League of Women Voters of Florida, etc., et al. v. Ken Detzner, et al., [SC14-1905](#)  
Statewide – starts about 9:00 a.m.

This case involves challenges to the boundaries for Florida's congressional districts that the Legislature drew in 2012. The League of Women Voters and other critics accused lawmakers of violating a provision that voters added to the state constitution in 2010 to ban partisan redistricting. The trial court agreed that lawmakers had violated that provision, declared two of Florida's 27 congressional districts unconstitutional, and rejected challenges to several other districts. Lawmakers submitted a map adjusting the boundaries of the two districts and the trial court approved the revised map. The League now appeals, arguing the changes didn't remedy the constitutional violation.

William Crews v. State, SC14-319  
Bay County – starts about 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Crews, a public school teacher, was convicted of multiple counts of sexual offenses involving minors age 12 or older. Charges on some of the counts were based on a longer statute of limitations period that applies to “misconduct in office” by a public officer or employee, with the state alleging that since Mr. Crews was a teacher and the victims were students, the crimes qualified as misconduct in office. Mr. Crews claimed the statute does not apply to public school teachers and that the offenses were not misconduct in office. The First District Court of Appeal disagreed but certified the legal question as one of great public importance for this Court’s review.

--10 minute break--

Joseph Jordan v. State, SC13-2091  
Volusia County – starts about 10:50 a.m.

Mr. Jordan was convicted of the first-degree murder of Keith Cope, who was fatally injured in 2009 as a result of being bound and gagged for approximately three days. The jury voted 10-2 to recommend the death penalty and the trial court condemned Mr. Jordan to death. This is his direct appeal.

## **Thursday, March 5**

Inquiry Concerning a Judge, No. 13-344 Re: Susan B. Flood, SC14-1364  
Polk County – starts about 9:00 a.m.

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

Dianne L. Hahamovitch n/k/a Dianne Lynn Hahamovitch v. Harry H. Hahamovitch, SC14-277  
Polk County – starts about 9:10 a.m.

Before they wed, Dianne and Harry Hahamovitch signed a premarital agreement; when they divorced, they disagreed as to the meaning of the agreement. The trial court agreed with the former husband; the Fourth District Court of Appeal upheld the trial court but certified a question of great public importance for this Court’s review concerning the scope of agreements such as the one signed by the Hahamovitches.

--10 minute break--

John Joerg Jr., etc., et al. v. State Farm Automobile Insurance Co., [SC13-1768](#)  
Sarasota County – starts about 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Joerg's son, a disabled adult, was injured when a car hit him as he was riding a bike. The Joergs had uninsured motorists coverage with State Farm and sued for benefits. The jury awarded the family \$469,000 to pay for future medical expenses, but the Second District Court of Appeal granted State Farm a new trial on the basis that evidence of Medicare benefits should have been admitted to evaluate damages. The Joergs argued the 2nd DCA's ruling conflicted with decisions from other Florida appellate courts.

Cornelius Baker v. State; Cornelius Baker v. Julie L. Jones, etc., [SC13-2331](#); [SC14-873](#)  
Flagler County – starts about 10:40 a.m.

Mr. Baker was convicted of the first-degree murder of Elizabeth Uptagrafft, who was fatally shot in 2007. The jury voted 9-3 to recommend a death sentence and he was condemned to death. This Court upheld his sentence on direct appeal and Mr. Baker filed a postconviction challenge in trial court. It was denied and this appeal followed.

### **Wednesday, March 25**

State v. Michael McAdams; Michael McAdams v. State, [SC14-788](#); [SC14-826](#)  
Pasco County – starts about 9:00 a.m.

Lynda McAdams and William Andrews were fatally shot. Her estranged husband, Michael McAdams, agreed to talk to detectives and confessed. He later tried unsuccessfully to get his confession suppressed. He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. On appeal, he argued his due process rights were violated when police refused to tell him that a lawyer hired by his family was in the building and trying to reach him. The Second District Court of Appeal held that although Mr. McAdams was not in custody when he confessed, police had still violated due process by not telling him about the lawyer after he was arrested. The 2nd DCA asked this Court to review the issue as one of great public importance.

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