



Supreme Court of Florida

[Main Press Page](#)

[Broadcasts of Arguments Including Archives](#)

Oral Argument Press Summaries

February 8 & 9, no cases on February 6, 7, and 10

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

[SC21-11 The Florida Bar v. Stephen Matthew Bander](#)

Begins at 9:00 a.m. ET

In this attorney discipline case, the Florida Bar accuses Mr. Bander of seven violations of the ethical standards for lawyers pertaining to his representation of several clients seeking U.S. residency through the Immigrant Investment Program and his misuse of client funds. The judge-referee recommends that Mr. Bander be found guilty of all charges, disbarred, and pay Bar costs in the disciplinary proceedings. The Florida Bar supports the recommendation. Mr. Bander challenges the referee's findings of fact, recommendations of guilt, and recommended sanction.

[SC21-1761 Floridians Against Increased Rates, Inc. v. Gary F. Clark, Etc., et al.](#) & [SC22-12 Florida Rising, Inc., et al. v. Gary F. Clark, Etc., et al.](#)

Begins about 9:30 a.m.

Floridians Against Increased Rates (FAIR), Florida Rising, and others challenge a decision made by the Public Service Commission (PSC), which regulates public utilities, to approve a settlement agreement between Florida Power and Light (FPL) and other interested parties providing for, among other things, a rate increase. FAIR and Florida Rising argue that the PSC's decision does

not comply with Florida law and is not in the public interest, resulting in unfair and discriminatory customer rates. The PSC and FPL argue that the decision was appropriate and proper.

Thursday, February 9, 2023

[SC22-338 Roderick Michael Orme v. State of Florida](#)

Bay County – Begins at 9:00 a.m. ET

Orme was convicted of the first-degree murder of Lisa Redd, who was raped, beaten, and strangled to death in 1992. Orme was sentenced to death after a jury recommendation of 7-5. This Court affirmed the conviction and sentence on direct appeal. Orme filed a postconviction motion arguing ineffective assistance of counsel, and in 2005, this Court ordered a new penalty-phase proceeding. Orme was again sentenced to death, this time after a jury recommendation of 11-1, and in 2009, this Court affirmed that sentence on direct appeal. In 2017, this Court ordered a new penalty-phase proceeding pursuant to *Hurst v. State*. Orme then waived his right to a penalty-phase jury, and a judge sentenced him to death in 2022. Orme now appeals that death sentence.

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