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May 4, 2009

SCOTUS grants cert in *Sullivan*, juve LWOP case

As detailed in [this order list](#), among the cases in which the Supreme Court granted cert this morning is *Sullivan v. Florida*. As detailed in posts linked below, *Sullivan* involves an Eighth Amendment challenge a sentence of life without parole given to a rape defendant who was only 13 years old (!) at the time of the crime. For a variety of reasons, *Sullivan* has the potential to be the biggest non-capital Eighth Amendment case decided by the Supreme Court in many years.

Interestingly, as noted [here by SCOTUSblog](#), the Supreme Court also took up a companion juve LWOP case, *Graham v. Florida*, which apparently involves a life sentence for a non-murder crime committed by a 17-year-old offender. As suggested in the prior paragraph, *Sullivan* and *Graham* are likely to be the cases to watch for sentencing fans in the next SCOTUS Term (which, of course, is going to involve a brand new Justice). Exciting times.

Some related posts on juve LWOP and the *Sullivan* case:

- [EJI files seeks cert on claim that juve LWOP is](#)

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LINKS & RESOURCES

US Department of Justice

United States Sentencing
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Families Against
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Justice Policy Institute

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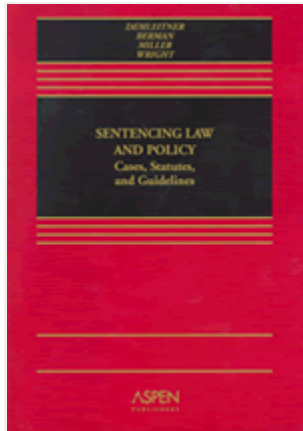
Justice Research and
Statistics Association

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Vera Institute of Justice,
Center on Sentencing and
Corrections

The Golf Blog

MY BOOKS & JOURNALS



- [unconstitutional for 13-year-old offender](#)
- ["A Life Term for Rape at 13: Cruel and Unusual?"](#)
- [CNN covers Sullivan case as SCOTUS considers juve LWOP](#)
- [NYTimes coverage of very young lifers](#)
- [Does Roper suggest young juve LWOP is unconstitutional?](#)
- [Juves serving life terms](#)
- [Life without parole for juvenile may be cruel, but it is not unusual](#)
- [The next issue in sentencing of juveniles?](#)
- [New HRW report assailing juve LWOP in California](#)
- [LDF report documents disparities in juve LWOP in Mississippi](#)

Pew Center Corrections
and Public Safety

The Crime Report

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Recent FSR Articles

USSC Booker Page

Booker Fix Debate

Yale Pocket Part on
Reasonableness

Claiborne/Rita Briefs

Gall/Kimbrough Briefs