



Supreme Court of California  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Summary of Cases Accepted and Related Actions During Week of January 12, 2026

*[This news release is issued to inform the public and the press of cases that the Supreme Court has accepted and of their general subject matter. The statement of the issue or issues in each case set out below does not necessarily reflect the view of the court, or define the specific issues that will be addressed by the court.]*

**#26-1 *People v. Meraz*, S294248.** (B341539; nonpublished opinion; Ventura County Superior Court; 2009013585.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed an order denying a post-judgment motion in a criminal matter. The court ordered briefing deferred pending decision in *People v. Munoz*, S290828 (#25-209), which presents the following issue: Is a juvenile homicide offender sentenced to 50 years to life in prison entitled to recall and resentencing under Penal Code section 1170, subdivision (d)(1) on the ground that the sentence is the functional equivalent of life imprisonment without parole?

**#26-2 *People v. Pineda*, S294258.** (B338142; nonpublished opinion; Los Angeles County Superior Court; BA264727.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed an order denying a post-judgment motion in a criminal matter. The court ordered briefing deferred pending decision in *In re Hernandez*, S282186 (#23-261), which presents the following issue: Does the totality of the circumstances establish that defendant meaningfully understood the immigration consequences of her plea?

**#26-3 *People v. Smith*, S294276.** (C102353; nonpublished opinion; Sacramento County Superior Court; 18FE022060.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed an order revoking probation in a criminal matter. The court ordered briefing deferred pending decision in *People v. Mitchell*, S277314 (#22-305), which presents the following issue: Does Senate Bill No. 567 (Stats. 2021, ch. 731), which limits a trial court's discretion to impose upper term sentences, apply retroactively to defendants sentenced pursuant to stipulated plea agreements?

**#26-4 *T.L. v. San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency*, S294146.** (D084870; nonpublished opinion; San Diego County Superior Court; 37-2021-00014628-CU-PO-CTL.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed the judgment in a civil action. The court ordered briefing deferred pending decision in *K.C. v. County of Merced*, S290435 (#25-208), which presents the following issue: Was plaintiff's complaint alleging that a social worker failed to investigate or act in response to claims of sexual abuse subject to demurrer on the ground that discretionary act immunity under Government Code section 820.2 precluded liability?

**#26-5 *People v. VanBlarcom*, S294310.** (D084297; nonpublished opinion; San Bernardino County Superior Court; FSB17003759.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed an order granting in part and denying in part a post-judgment motion in a criminal matter. The court ordered briefing deferred pending decision in *People v. Eaton*, S289903 (#25-129), which presents the following issue: May a trial court reimpose a previously imposed upper term sentence under Penal Code section 1172.75, subdivision (d)(4) where the facts underlying one or more aggravating circumstances were neither stipulated to by the defendant nor found true beyond a reasonable doubt at trial by the jury or by the judge in a court trial (cf. Pen. Code, § 1170, subd. (b)(2); *id.*, § 1172.75, subd. (d)(2))?

#### SEPARATE STATEMENT ON DENIAL OF REVIEW

***People v. Ambriz*, S293792.** (B336232; nonpublished opinion; Los Angeles County Superior Court; BA376570.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed a post-judgment order in a criminal matter and remanded with directions.

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*The Supreme Court of California is the state's highest court and its decisions are binding on all other California state courts. The court's primary role is to decide matters of statewide importance and to maintain uniformity in the law throughout California by reviewing matters from the six districts of the California Courts of Appeal and the fifty-eight county superior courts (the trial courts). Among its other duties, the court also decides all capital appeals and related matters and reviews both attorney and judicial disciplinary matters.*