



Supreme Court of California
350 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-4797
www.courts.ca.gov/supremecourt

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: [Merrill Balassone](mailto:Merrill.Balassone@courts.ca.gov), 415-865-7740

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 16, 2024

Summary of Cases Accepted and Related Actions During Week of February 13, 2024

[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.]

#24-23 *New England Country Foods, LLC v. Vanlaw Food Products, Inc.*, S282968. (9th Cir. No. 22-55432; 87 F.3d 1016; Central District of California; D.C. No. 8:21-cv-01060-DOC-ADS.) Request under California Rules of Court, rule 8.548, that this court decide a question of California law presented in a matter pending in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The question presented is: “Is a contractual clause that substantially limits damages for an intentional wrong but does not entirely exempt a party from liability for all possible damages valid under California Civil Code [s]ection 1668?”

#24-24 *People v. Anderson*, S283330. (H050145; nonpublished opinion; Santa Cruz County Superior Court; F25697.) 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.

#24-25 *People v. Jimenez*, S283310. (A165743; nonpublished opinion; Alameda County Superior Court; 19CR016234B.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed a judgment of conviction of a criminal offense.

#24-26 *People v. Mazur*, S283229. (D081331; 97 Cal.App.5th 438; San Diego County Superior Court; SCD261283.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed a judgment of conviction of criminal offenses.

#24-27 *People v. Reynolds*, S283254. (G062226; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 14WF3283.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed an order denying a post-judgment motion in a criminal matter.

The court ordered briefing in *Anderson, Jimenez, Mazur, and Reynolds* deferred pending decision in *People v. Walker*, S278309 (#23-50), which presents the following issue: Does the amendment to Penal Code section 1385, subdivision (c) that requires trial courts to “afford great weight” to enumerated mitigating circumstances (Stats. 2021, ch. 721) create a rebuttable presumption in favor of dismissing an enhancement unless the trial court finds dismissal would endanger public safety?

#24-28 *People v. Esquivias*, S283283. (B325929; nonpublished opinion; Los Angeles County Superior Court; TA037378.) 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. Hardin*, S277487 (#23-1), which presents the following issues: (1) Does Penal Code section 3051, subdivision (h), violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment by excluding young adults sentenced to life without the possibility of parole from youth offender parole consideration, while young adults sentenced to parole-eligible terms are entitled to such consideration? (2) Whether the first step of the two-part inquiry used to evaluate equal protection claims, which asks whether two or more groups are similarly situated for the purposes of the law challenged, should be eliminated in cases concerning disparate treatment of classes or groups of persons, such that the only inquiry is whether the challenged classification is adequately justified under the applicable standard of scrutiny?

#24-29 *In re L.C.*, S283342. (E081670; nonpublished opinion; San Bernardino County Superior Court; J292768.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed orders in a juvenile dependency proceeding.

#24-30 *In re S.J.*, S283220. (E081498; nonpublished opinion; San Bernardino County Superior Court; J268770.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed an order in a juvenile dependency proceeding.

The court ordered briefing in *L.C.* and *S.J.* deferred pending decision in *In re Ja.O.*, S280572 (#23-153), which presents the following issue: Does the duty of a child welfare agency to inquire of extended family members and others about a child’s potential Indian ancestry apply to children who are taken into custody under a protective custody warrant?

#24-31 *People v. Lopez*, S283198. (B318535; nonpublished opinion; Los Angeles County Superior Court; KA060104.) 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. Emanuel*, S280551 (#23-174), which presents the following issue: Does sufficient evidence support the trial court’s finding that defendant acted with reckless indifference to human life and therefore was ineligible for resentencing pursuant to Penal Code section 1172.6?

DISPOSITIONS

The following cases were transferred for reconsideration in light of *Rodriguez v. Superior Court* (2023) 15 Cal.5th 472:

#23-223 <i>People v. Gonzalez</i> , S282166	(H049335; nonpublished opinion; Santa Clara County Superior Court; C1504229)
#23-224 <i>People v. Gonzalez</i> , S282168	(H049364; nonpublished opinion; Santa Clara County Superior Court; C1359980)

The following case was transferred for reconsideration in light of *In re N.R.* (2023) 15 Cal.5th 520:

#23-179 <i>In re Kieran S.</i> , S280993	(B318672; nonpublished opinion; Los Angeles County Superior Court; 19LJJP00321A)
--	--

###

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.