



Supreme Court of California
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 15, 2025

Summary of Cases Accepted and Related Actions During Week of August 11, 2025

[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.]

#25-274 *Romane v. Department of Motor Vehicles*, S291093. (D083569; 110 Cal.App.5th 1002; San Diego County Superior Court; 37-2023-00017624-CU-WM-CTL.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal reversed the judgment in an action for writ of administrative mandate and remanded for further proceedings. The court limited review to the following issue: Under what circumstances does an administrative per se hearing officer's relationship with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) violate a driver's due process right to an impartial adjudicator by creating an unacceptable risk of bias during a DMV driver's license suspension hearing?

#25-275 *People v. Alvarado*, S291594. (G063550; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 18NF1174.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal reversed an order denying a post-judgment motion in a criminal matter and remanded for resentencing.

#25-276 *People v. Becker*, S291585. (E082914; nonpublished opinion; Riverside County Superior Court; HEF970137.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed an order denying a post-judgment motion in a criminal matter.

#25-277 *People v. Espinoza*, S291629. (G063427; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 17CF2411.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal reversed an order denying a post-judgment motion in a criminal matter and remanded for resentencing.

#25-278 *People v. McDonald*, S291636. (G063798; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 15CF1181.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal

reversed an order denying a post-judgment motion in a criminal matter and remanded for resentencing.

The court ordered briefing in *Alvarado*, *Becker*, *Espinoza*, and *McDonald* deferred pending decision in *People v. Espino*, S286987 (#24-209), which presents the following issue: Is a defendant entitled to resentencing under Penal Code section 1172.75 when the judgment in the defendant's criminal case includes a prior-prison-term enhancement that was imposed but for which punishment was stricken?

#25-279 *In re B.M.*, S291525. (B339378; nonpublished opinion; Los Angeles County Superior Court; 24CCJP01914A.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal dismissed appeal as moot in a juvenile dependency proceeding. The court ordered briefing deferred pending decision in *In re S.R.*, S285759 (#24-165), which presents the following issues: (1) When a juvenile court's jurisdictional findings establish that a parent committed an offense that the law requires be reported to the statewide Child Abuse Centralized Index (CACI), should an appellate court presume, on an otherwise silent record, the offense has been or will be reported to CACI? (2) If un rebutted, is this presumption sufficient to avoid dismissal for mootness?

#25-280 *People v. Cook*, S291723. (C100363; nonpublished opinion; Sacramento County Superior Court; 15F04775.) 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))? and 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?

#25-281 *People v. Elder*, S291805. (A169926; nonpublished opinion; Solano County Superior Court; FCR200854.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal from an order denying a post-judgment motion in a criminal matter. The court ordered briefing deferred pending decision in *In re Montgomery*, S287339 (#24-235), which presents the following issue: Must a petitioner allege a prima facie case for relief under the Racial Justice Act (Pen. Code, § 745; RJA) before the trial court can consider a discovery request for disclosure of evidence under the RJA (*id.*, subd. (d))?

#25-282 *People v. Haynes*, S291655. (C100293; nonpublished opinion; San Joaquin County Superior Court; STKCRFE20000006081.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal remanded for recalculation of presentence credits, and otherwise affirmed an order granting in part and denying in part a post-judgment motion in a criminal matter.

#25-283 *People v. Mathis*, S291628. (A168363; 111 Cal.App.5th 359; Contra Costa County Superior Court; 04001860212.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed a post-judgment order in a criminal matter.

The court ordered briefing in *Haynes* and *Mathis* 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))?

#25-284 *People v. Lopez*, S291192. (D084633; nonpublished opinion; San Diego County Superior Court; SCN213801.) 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. Lopez*, S287814 (#25-2), which presents the following issue: Does Penal Code section 1172.6, subdivision (a)(3), which requires defendants to allege that they “could not presently be convicted of murder or attempted murder because of changes to section 188 or 189 made effective January 1, 2019,” render ineligible for relief petitioners who could have raised their challenges to imputed malice on prior direct appeal?

#25-285 *People v. Rosales*, S291734. (A167850; nonpublished opinion; Solano County Superior Court; VCR235061.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal modified and affirmed a judgment of conviction of a criminal offense. The court ordered briefing deferred pending decision in *People v. SanMiguel*, S287786 (#24-258), which presents the following issue: Did the trial court properly overrule defendant’s Code of Civil Procedure section 231.7 objection to the People’s peremptory challenge of a prospective juror?

#25-286 *S.C. v. County of Fresno*, S291224. (F088080; nonpublished opinion; Fresno County Superior Court; 22CECG03629.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed the dismissal of 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?

DISPOSITIONS

Review in the following case, which was granted and held for *Madrigal v. Hyundai Motors America* (2025) 17 Cal.5th 592, was dismissed:

#24-82 <i>Ayers v. FCA US, LLC</i> , S284486	(B315884; 99 Cal.App.5th 1280; Los Angeles County Superior Court; JCCP4884)
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Review in the following case, which was granted and held for *People v. Emanuel* (2025) 17 Cal.5th 867, was dismissed:

#24-12 <i>People v. Hatter</i> , S282754	(B322177; nonpublished opinion; Los Angeles County Superior Court; BA240172)
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People v. Rhoades, S154053, an automatic appeal, was transferred to the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, upon the appellant's resentencing to a term less than death.

STATUS

In the following cases, in which briefing was previously deferred pending decision in *People v. Rhodius* (2025) 17 Cal.5th 1050, the court ordered briefing deferred pending decision in *People v. Espino*, S286987 (#24-209), which presents the following issue: Is a defendant entitled to resentencing under Penal Code section 1172.75 when the judgment in the defendant's criminal case includes a prior-prison-term enhancement that was imposed but for which punishment was stricken?

#25-149 <i>People v. Aguirre</i> , S290312	(E083031; nonpublished opinion; Riverside County Superior Court; RIF080926)
#25-31 <i>People v. Alatorre</i> , S288755	(E082854; nonpublished opinion; Riverside County Superior Court; RIF1305853)

#25-150 <i>People v. Alfaro</i>, S290235	(G063565; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 18NF0564)
#25-95 <i>People v. Briceno</i>, S289541	(G063559; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 00NF3394)
#25-48 <i>People v. Dennis</i>, S288759	(G063554; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 93WF1745)
#25-96 <i>People v. Ewing</i>, S289428	(G063633; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 18CF0567)
#25-98 <i>People v. Finks</i>, S289611	(G063662; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 18WF2335)
#25-136 <i>People v. Guerra</i>, S289840	(G063639; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 10NF0425)
#25-211 <i>People v. Harris</i>, S290936	(E082950; nonpublished opinion; Riverside County Superior Court; BLF1400195)
#25-259 <i>People v. Harvey</i>, S291468	(G063797; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 10HF1993)
#25-260 <i>People v. Ivora</i>, S291451	(G063638; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 18WF1307)
#25-137 <i>People v. Jacuinde</i>, S290093	(E082886; nonpublished opinion; Riverside County Superior Court; RIF1603431)

#25-261 <i>People v. Lamb</i>, S291112	(E082846; nonpublished opinion; Riverside County Superior Court; RIF1700595)
#25-102 <i>People v. Martinez</i>, S289740	(G063644; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 96CF0746)
#25-214 <i>People v. Maryland</i>, S290792	(G064156; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 05SF0407)
#25-80 <i>People v. May</i>, S289314	(G063636; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 12HF1774)
#24-249 <i>People v. Oduno</i>, S287431	(D083043; nonpublished opinion; San Diego County Superior Court; SCN370712)
#25-21 <i>People v. Orlop</i>, S288276	(D083740; nonpublished opinion; Riverside County Superior Court; INF1500310)
#25-247 <i>People v. Orr</i>, S291360	(H051547; nonpublished opinion; Santa Clara County Superior Court; CC643445)
#25-167 <i>People v. Peace</i>, S290317	(E083071; nonpublished opinion; Riverside County Superior Court; RIF74466)
#25-87 <i>People v. Penaflor</i>, S289543	(G063817; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 09CF1748)
#25-215 <i>People v. Perez</i>, S290984	(G063773, G063766; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 16WF0862, 16CF2967)

#25-216 <i>People v. Proby</i> , S290866	(G063764; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 95NF2269)
#25-71 <i>People v. Reed</i> , S289067	(E083073; nonpublished opinion; Riverside County Superior Court; RIF1300690)
#25-140 <i>People v. Rivera</i> , S290253	(G063793; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 04SF0912)
#25-189 <i>People v. Ruiz</i> , S290705	(G063756; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 13NF3833)
#25-169 <i>People v. Salazar</i> , S290349	(G063659; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 97NF2516)
#24-252 <i>People v. Sanchez</i> , S287619	(H051266; nonpublished opinion; Santa Clara County Superior Court; C1898274)
#24-216 <i>People v. Sanchez</i> , S287072	(H051274; nonpublished opinion; Santa Clara County Superior Court; 207514)
#25-28 <i>People v. Sandoval</i> , S288572	(H051298; nonpublished opinion; Santa Clara County Superior Court; C1235666)
#25-124 <i>People v. Saole</i> , S289653	(G063760; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 97NF1880)
#25-218 <i>People v. Serrano</i> , S290904	(G063804; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 16CF2210)

#25-249 <i>People v. Shaw</i>, S291388	(G063755; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 96CF1444)
#25-51 <i>People v. Simons</i>, S288757	G063557; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 94WF1171)
#25-250 <i>People v. Smith</i>, S291376	(G063772; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 94SF0744)
#25-8 <i>People v. Soria</i>, S288315	(H051278; nonpublished opinion; Santa Clara County Superior Court; C1491514)
#25-191 <i>People v. Stephen</i>, S290712	(G063562; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 13CF2612)
#25-192 <i>People v. Tellez</i>, S290634	(G063753; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 13CF2980)
#25-265 <i>People v. Torres</i>, S291499	(H051389; nonpublished opinion; Santa Clara County Superior Court; C1774786)

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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.