



Supreme Court of California
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2025

Summary of Cases Accepted and Related Actions During Week of September 22, 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.]

#25-303 *People v. Sanders*, S292518. (B336620; nonpublished opinion; Los Angeles County Superior Court; TA059122.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal reversed an order denying a post-judgment motion in a criminal matter and remanded for further proceedings.

#25-304 *People v. Thompson*, S292540. (B333097; 112 Cal.App.5th 1058; Los Angeles County Superior Court; BA305789.) 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 *Sanders* and *Thompson* 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?

DISPOSITIONS

The following cases were transferred for reconsideration in light of *People v. Emanuel* (2025) 17 Cal.5th 867:

#24-115 <i>People v. Aleo</i>, S284938	(F084511; nonpublished opinion; Stanislaus County Superior Court; CR-19-002757)
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#23-212 <i>People v. Allan</i>, S282046	(D080414; nonpublished opinion; San Bernardino County Superior Court; FSB048987)
#24-120 <i>People v. Athwal</i>, S285361	(F084358; nonpublished opinion; Madera County Superior Court; MCR058031B)
#23-207 <i>In re D.L.</i>, S281938	(B321015; nonpublished opinion; Los Angeles County Superior Court; MJ24058)
#24-201 <i>People v. Fava</i>, S286894	(E081336; nonpublished opinion; San Bernardino County Superior Court; FVI800549)
#24-267 <i>People v. Fitzhugh</i>, S288021	(C099624; nonpublished opinion; San Joaquin County Superior Court; SF117037A)
#24-39 <i>People v. Johnson</i>, S283427	(D082203; nonpublished opinion; Riverside County Superior Court; CR38392)
#23-192 <i>People v. Jones</i>, S281508	(B320040; nonpublished opinion; Los Angeles County Superior Court; YA037935)
#24-255 <i>People v. Parker</i>, S287706	(A168406; nonpublished opinion; Sonoma County Superior Court; SCR6547991)
#24-106 <i>People v. Patterson</i>, S284836	(G061630; nonpublished opinion; Orange County Superior Court; 95HF0300)
#24-121 <i>People v. Ramsey</i>, S285039	(F085888; nonpublished opinion; Madera County Superior Court; MCR056744A)

#24-122 <i>People v. Resendez</i> , S285061	(B317630; nonpublished opinion; Los Angeles County Superior Court; VA087669)
#24-49 <i>People v. Whitlatch</i> , S283545	(C096642; nonpublished opinion; San Joaquin County Superior Court; STKCRFE20190003141)

Review in the following cases, which were granted and held for *People v. Emanuel* (2025) 17 Cal.5th 867, was dismissed:

#25-107 <i>People v. Drummer</i> , S289566	(H051441; nonpublished opinion; Santa Clara County Superior Court; C1477595)
#24-210 <i>People v. Garcia</i> , S286914	(H050818; nonpublished opinion; Santa Clara County Superior Court; C1247403)

The following case was transferred for reconsideration in light of *Gutierrez v. Tostado* (2025) 18 Cal.5th 222:

#24-148 <i>Lopez v. Dayton</i> , S285689	(A168458; nonpublished opinion; Contra Costa County Superior Court; C2100204)
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STATUS

#24-257 *J.O. v. Superior Court*, S287285. The court directed supplemental briefing on the following question: Assuming *arguendo* that “blanket challenges” to a particular judge under Code of Civil Procedure section 170.6 implicate separation of powers concerns, do those concerns apply to actions taken only by executive branch offices such as a county counsel or a district attorney’s office, or does the concern apply more broadly to non-executive branch entities such as a public defender’s office or a private law firm? (See, e.g., *People v. Superior Court (Tejeda)* (2016) 1 Cal.App.5th 892, 896; *id.* at p. 912, fn. 2 (conc. opn. of Aronson, J.); *id.* at p. 930 (dis. opn. of Thompson, J.).)

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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.