

SADO's Juvenile Lifer Unit Secures Term of Years Sentences for Clients formerly Sentenced to Life Without Parole

Michigan's Juvenile Lifers--individuals sentenced to mandatory life without parole for offenses they committed as children age 17 years old or under--are entitled to resentencing following *Montgomery v Louisiana*, ___ US ___; (Docket No. 14-280, issued 1/25/16), and pursuant to the procedures set forth in MCL 769.25a.

In July 2016, prosecutor offices around the state filed motions seeking the re-imposition of life without parole sentences for approximately 229 of Michigan's approximately 363 juvenile lifers. Resentencing hearings will take place over an expanded period of time. In these cases, the prosecution will continue to seek the re-imposition of a life sentence while defense counsel will seek the imposition of a term of years sentence, the minimum of which can be between 25 to 40 years and the maximum of which is 60 years, pursuant to MCL 769.25a.

Individuals in which county prosecutors did not seek the re-imposition of life without parole sentences will be resentenced to a term of years pursuant to MCL 769.25a.

The State Appellate Defender Office represents approximately 60% of Michigan's juvenile lifers.

SADO's Juvenile Lifer Unit, led by Assistant Defender Valerie Newman, has begun the resentencing process for a number of clients:

- **William Washington**, who has served 40 years imprisonment for a crime that occurred when he was 17 years old, was resentenced on September 6, 2016 to 40 to 60 years, making him immediately eligible for parole. (SADO Attorney Valerie Newman).
- **John Hall**, who has served 50 years imprisonment for a crime that occurred when he was 17 years old, was resentenced to 40 to 60 years on September 16, 2016, making him immediately eligible for parole. (SADO Attorney Valerie Newman).
- **Thomas Armstrong**, who has served 27 years imprisonment for a crime that occurred when he was 15 years old, was resentenced to 28 to 60 years on September 19, 2016, making him parole eligible in June 2017. (SADO Attorney Susan Meinberg).
- **Darnell Johnson**, who has served over 40 years imprisonment for a crime that occurred when he was 16 years old, was resentenced to 40 to 60 years on September 23, 2016, making him immediately parole eligible. (Attorney Susan Meinberg).
- **Walter Jones**, who has served 41 years imprisonment for a crime that occurred when he was 17 years old, was resentenced to 40 to 60 years on September 23, 2016, making him immediately parole eligible. (Attorney Susan Meinberg).
- **James Howard**, who has served 35 years imprisonment for a crime that occurred when he was 17 years old, was resentenced to 40 to 60 years on September 26, 2016. He will be eligible for parole in 2021. (Attorney Susan Meinberg).

SADO and its Juvenile Lifer Unit will continue to fight for the best possible outcomes for all clients.

