

HANDOUT TWO: THE SUPREME COURT AND EJI'S WORK WITH CHILDREN

Introduction: Bryan Stevenson has argued in front of the U.S. Supreme Court five times.³³ These cases resulted in decisions banning life without parole sentences for convicted minors and made possible resentencing hearings for approximately 3,000 people sentenced to die in prison as children. EJI's successful arguments also affirmed the right of people who are incarcerated and on death row to challenge the proposed method of their execution.

Directions: Listen to Bryan Stevenson's oral argument in front of the Supreme Court in either **Sullivan v. Florida** or **Miller v. Alabama**.

*Sullivan v. Florida*³⁴ (2009)

Question posed in the Supreme Court: Does the imposition of a life sentence without parole on a 13 year old convicted of a non-homicidal offense violate the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments' prohibition of "cruel and unusual punishment?"

Note that the Court's decision in Sullivan was announced in Graham v. Florida,³⁵ the companion case to Sullivan.

*Miller v. Alabama*³⁶ (2011) and *Jackson v. Hobbs* (2011)

Question posed in the Supreme Court: Does the imposition of a life-without-parole sentence on a fourteen-year-old child violate the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments' prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment?

Note these were two cases argued together (Bryan argued both on the same day); Miller v. Alabama and Jackson v. Hobbs;

(Other cases EJI argued in front of the United States Supreme Court)

McMillian v. Monroe County, Alabama (1996)³⁷

*Madison v. Alabama*³⁸ (2018)

33 https://www.oyez.org/advocates/bryan_a_stevens
34 *Sullivan v. Florida* <https://www.oyez.org/cases/2009/08-76>
35 *Graham v. Florida* <https://www.oyez.org/cases/2009/08-741>
36 *Miller v. Alabama* <https://www.oyez.org/cases/2011/10-96>
37 <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1996/96-5>
38 *Madison v. Alabama* <https://www.oyez.org/cases/2018/17-75>